

# EARTH FIRST!

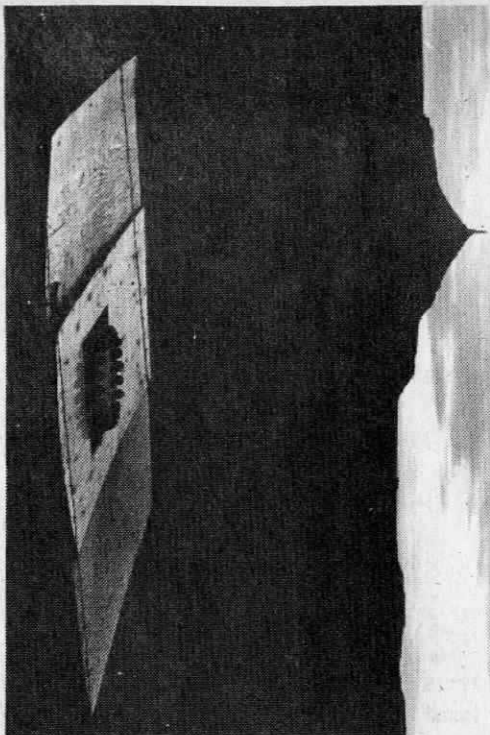
NEWSLETTER  
VOL. 2, NO. 4

EOSTAR RITUAL  
MARCH 20, 1982



SPRING EQUINOX

*Spring Equinox—time to rejoice at the return of spring—dark and light in balance, a time for music, for dance, for love, and for new life.*



MARTIN STUM

Test borehole drilled by DOE early in 1980 adjacent to Davis Canyon. Stone sentinel in the distance is So. 5x Shooter Peak—and Davis Canyon. Two miles to the right is the Needles District of Canyonlands National Park.

## Nuking the Canyons

In opting to dig up the earth in and around Canyonlands National Park, the DOE has finally conceded a point long known by environmentalists: NOWHERE is there a safe place to store highly radioactive plutonium! Although the National Waste Terminal Storage (NWTs) plan of 1976 requires the DOE to establish a permanent nuke wastecan, they have been plagued by public outrage whenever they look (except in southeastern Utah where local political crazies actually want the crap).

DOE is determined to ram this one down our throats at an accelerated pace. Utah State Senator, Frances Farley, recently said, "I don't think people here really know how close we are to getting that dump. The DOE is moving very fast, and in the direction of least resistance. This is a small state and there are a number of elected people in southern Utah who are very development oriented. They are anxious to have the waste site for development purposes and jobs."

The dump is another example in a long, continuing list of government and corporations destroying pristine, remote areas for their own gain and desperate "quick fix" measures. Uninhabited by humans, and seemingly unrepresented in the fetid halls of governments, Mother Earth's wilderness is being shrugged off as "exploitable." The untrammeled parts of earth which we must fight to preserve are the very same areas that the nuclear industry and others are bent on raping.

The DOE has narrowed its choice of sites to two adjacent canyons in Utah, Davis and Laverder, on the eastern border of Canyonlands. These canyons are atop the Paradox salt formation that runs from under Bedrock, Colorado, to Salt Wash, north of Arches National Park. This is the same formation used by Dioxol to store propane under Moab. (You remember Dioxol... an explosion and fire at their Moab plant last August killed five people and seriously injured

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## WATT BLM?

BOTKIN RESIGNS

Five years ago, Randy Botkin became the first wilderness staff person for the Bureau of Land Management. Throughout the entire BLM Wilderness Review, Randy has been one of the most influential and important individuals. He has believed in wilderness and in good, fair government. He resigned last month and his letter of resignation says it all. If all government bureaucrats were Randy Botkins, there would be far less need for EARTH FIRST!

Memorandum  
To: Chief, Division of Recreation, Cultural and Wilderness Resources

From: Martin R. Botkin  
Subject: Resignation

This is to confirm my conversation with Hugh Riecken on January 28, 1982, in which I verbally submitted my resignation effective February 20, 1982. As stated I do not support nor condone the policies and views of the Secretary of the Interior and his political appointees concerning the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) wilderness review program. No longer can I suppress my personal opinions nor can I modify my professional integrity. Therefore, since I do not wish to violate either the regulations governing employee responsibilities and conduct (43 CFR Part 20, Subpart A, Paragraph 20.735.2(d)) or BLM Instruction Memorandum No. 81-709 dated September 23, 1981, titled Discussion of Bureau Programs, Legislation and Budget, I hereby respectfully resign effective February 20, 1982.

—Martin R. Botkin

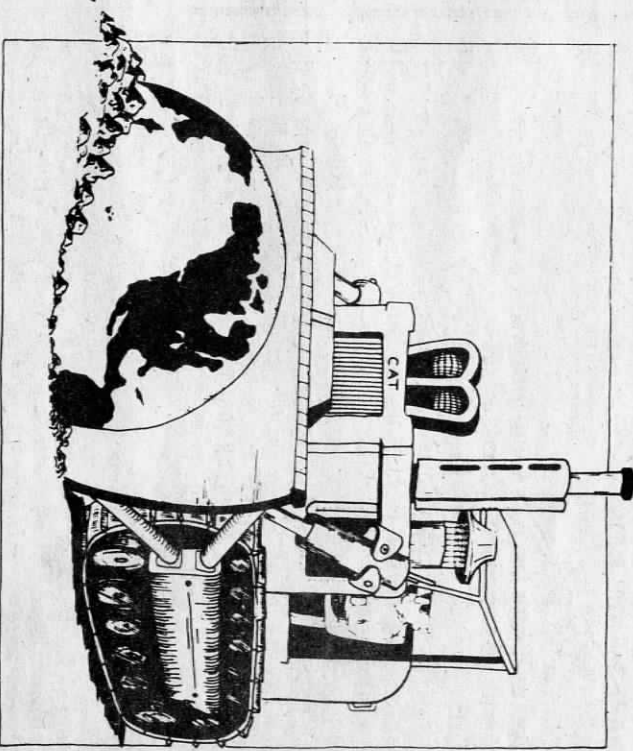
## KILLER CACTUS

Saguaro Cactus Kills Violent Assailant

The late David M. Grundman only got as far as yelling the "Tim" syllable of "Timber" before the giant saguaro cactus he was shooting at fell on him. This is the word from an Arizona Republic article which ran Feb. 12.

Grundman had been blasting away at the 27-foot saguaro with a 16-gauge shotgun with a friend of his, near Lake Pleasant, AZ, when his demise came about.

It was unclear whether this was his normal pastime, but the saguaro that killed Grundman was the second to be shot down by him that day.



Tom Stille  
©1980

## Interview: Mardie Murie

EDITORS NOTE:

Recently, Ben Read, a friend of Spur's partner, offered to give us this piece on Mardie Murie. He charged for only the time it took

by Benjamin Read

In the early 1930's, young Margaret Murie moved to Fairbanks, deep in the Alaskan heartland. The approach, the only viable one in the summer, was by boat to southern Alaska, then overlaid to Dawson on the Yukon River, a steamer down-stream on that broad river and, finally, at the mouth of the Tenana, another boat up to Alaska's remote interior city.

For most, this trip might be a lifetime's penultimate wilderness experience, but for Mardie (as she is known to her friends and family), Fairbanks was to be the point of civilization to which she returned after months in the bush.

When Mrs. Murie journeyed into the Alaskan wilderness more than a half century ago with her husband Olaus, there was no indication their prodigious talents would someday draw the admiration and respect of thousands. Olaus, a government biologist and painter, worked for months on end studying the habits and ecology of Alaska's game populations, while Mrs. Murie maintained a "home" under conditions that would tax a hardy Sourdough.

Much later, she was persuaded by a publisher to chronicle those early years in a widely acclaimed book, *Two for the North*, and now in her eighties, she is among the nation's most admired conservationists, still active and more energetic than many people half her age.

Her late husband was one of the early directors of the Wilderness Society and became deeply involved in conservation issues back when there was still an undue optimism that resources were limitless. In conjunction with his brother Adolph, the Muries made a number of ground breaking studies that are now accepted as common knowledge. Among these were findings that coyotes aren't the devastating livestock predators that people had assumed; that the elk herd of Jackson was declining due to a disease related to inferior forage, not starvation; and the conclusion that 1080 was wreaking havoc on all predator populations, not just wolves and coyotes.

Mrs. Murie now lives in a beautiful cabin beneath Wyoming's incomparable Teton Range, on land that will someday be donated to the park, and not far away is the renowned elk herd that Olaus studied and helped save from desecration decades ago.

The author of three books, Mrs. Murie serves on the councils of the Wilderness Society and Teton Science School.

She has known the nation's parks and wild places intimately, and it was from this broad base of experience that she discussed the ideals of preservation and significance of national parks to future generations.

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The Earth First! Newsletter is published eight times a year on the ancient pagan naturally-occurring festival dates, the Sabbats: Samhain (Halloween, Oct. 31), Yule (Winter Solstice, Dec. 21), Oimele or Brigid (Candlemas, Feb. 2), Eostar Ritual (Spring Equinox, Mar. 20-23), Beltane (May 1), Litha (Summer Solstice, June 21), Lughnasadh (Aug. 1), Mabon (Fall Equinox, Sept. 20-23).

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EDITOR: Pete Dustrand



## Earth First!er in Eugene

Over the February 6-7 weekend last month, twenty-five Earth First!ers invaded Lola and Abe's farm west of Eugene, Oregon, for a much-needed get-together.

The small but mighty horde of eco-radicals descended upon the Blank house from points separated only by distance. Foreman picked Spurs and me up on his way north from New Mexico way. Bruce hopped on the train from Wyoming to meet Mike en route. Wilicat Annie and Karen escorted Johnny Sagebrush up from Reno. Bill Devall charged up from Arcata. Eileen Key arrived from Portland. Ralph Monroe and Desert Rose showed up from their respective directions. After one long bus ride from Missoula, Tony and Rey made their appearance. (Ugh, buses.)

But, to top it off, our most unusual arrival wandered in shortly before 2 a.m. The few who were still up and staggering

around witnessed a U-Haul negotiating its way around the cars out front. In a second, the front door flew open to reveal Louisa Wilcox, just in from Wyoming. Seems she was barreling along when her Capri gave out near Burns, Oregon. Being in a hurry, she came upon a solution. Louisa rented the U-Haul, pushed her car into the back and resumed her beeline for Eugene. How she made off with a bundle of "Steve's U-Haul" pens remains a mystery. Finally, after all this, everyone got a few hours sleep. Mother-to-be Lola was making breakfast and around numerous, moaning lumps stuffed in sleeping bags. By 2 p.m., half the aspirin in the Blank residence has been consumed and the meeting began. To cover it all, Liz Kauffman had been flown in by Audubon Magazine.

One of our first topics was a discussion of the need to have a



Early Earth First!ers are seen here carrying the "crack" to its dropping place on Glen Canyon Dam. Person on the left is unidentified spirit of G. Hayduke.

## Crack 'Em Up!

When EARTH FIRST! "cracked" Glen Canyon Dam last March 20 (see accompanying photos) a professional film crew was there to capture it. Now, at long last, they have produced a 9 minute color sound movie of the event (16mm). Everyone who has seen it has agreed on one thing: It is superb! The movie features the actual unfurling of the crack, provocative statements from Ed Abbey, a singing soundtrack by Johnny Sagebrush, and Dave Foreman and Howie Wolke being

"contact" person for the regional Earth First! Contacts. That person materialized in the form of one Tony Moore, our contact from Missoula. Tony already has an active group of EF'ers in and around Missoula who get together once a week to make plans and act upon them.

Another item discussed was whether we should continue calling ourselves "members" of Earth First! or just simply, Earth First!ers. The latter option seemed more appropriate. Besides, just paying money to Earth First! doesn't necessarily make anyone an "Earth First!er" and there are Earth First!ers who have yet to hear about EF!, let alone pay any money into the newsletter and general fund.

Indeed, it seems to us that the people who have been drawn to Earth First! have done so out of what Marcy called a "bond of ideals." Bill D. likened Earth First! more to an "organism" rather than an "organization."

Shortly thereafter, your trusty editor here layed out the behind-the-scenes story on the progress and problems with this newsletter. Several folks expressed an interest to take some of the peripheral chores under their wings, such as the merchandising of T-shirts and other such ditties. Someone recommended that the newsletter ought to run something around to generate interest in EF! Look through this newsletter and you will see what I came up with.

Then Bruce went over the details on how far along we are in getting the Earth First! Foundation set up, so we can take tax-deductible contributions and make grants. The word is that it should be together soon, if not already. (See article on this elsewhere.)

It was decided that the Earth First! Newsletter, however, shall remain an autonomous arm of Earth First!; its survival will be dependent solely upon the generosity of contributing subscribers. Spurs Jackson and Digger then brought everyone present up-to-

led away by the police. The Cracking of Glen Canyon Dam is just the item to show at a local EARTH FIRST! meeting (or even a Sierra Club meeting). Because the movie cost EF! a small bundle, we are having to charge a rental fee of \$25. Order the flick from our keeper of the movie: Karen Tanner 1640 Davidson Reno, Nevada 89509 (702) 322-5215

date on their plans for publishing the "Ned Ludd Series" (see related article.)

Following this, Bart went over the latest on the developments unfolding with regards to this spring and summer's activities, and reported on the situation with the politics and development entities in Wyoming. All kinds of litigations are going on (see Bart's column), which have been making difficult any precise plans for this summer's occupation.

One certainly, however, is this summer's Round River Rendezvous. All Earth First!ers are invited to participate in the various activities, which will include issues study groups, strategy planning sessions, and it will feature such speakers as Ed Abbey, Dave Foreman, Howie Wolke, among others. Even the world-in-famous Lithium Brothers will be there. By the next issue of this newsletter, we will have narrowed down the meeting point for the RRR from western Wyoming to an exact spot.

Before the Earth First! meeting in Eugene broke up, Dave uncased the long-awaited for "Cracking of the Glen Canyon Dam" movie. This nine-minute flick was shot on location at the caper last Equinox (see blurb on the film elsewhere). It could not have been shown to a more receptive audience. We watched it three times!

Later that night, Johnny Sagebrush pulled out his mighty ax and set the tone for the evening. Before long, wild and crazed Earth First!ers were rocking the Blank house with their strange and unusual dances and cavorting. Abe's hat collection came under scrutiny as a source of possible entertainment, but when the first hat was pulled down to be tried on, a young bull snake slithered out. In no time at all, every hat in the place had been donned. Things went on like this for the rest of the night. The next day, all present hooted and hollered, hugged one another, and went off to get ready for the next time we all meet. **PA O**

## Letters to Earth First!

Dear Earth First!

A couple weeks ago I sat in on a symposium on Indian Law and Tribal Government. I listened to a group of tribal elders speak of a time when the deer and the fish and the berries were plentiful, before the rivers were polluted, the air fouled, and the earth abused. Their people respected the earth, not because laws and regulations forced them to, but because they knew that respect was right. They felt that the "Indian problem" was not one of law but of spirit, of the necessity to reaffirm a unity with choke-cherry, salmon and lodgepole.

The "environmental movement"—earth-lovers of all sorts—faces a similar crisis of spirit. If there ever was any kind of land ethic in our society it has been ridiculed and spit on and kicked out of the house to go lie in the dirt.

I hope that Earth First! is the meanest, mangiest old flea-infested mongrel that ever crawled out from under a front porch and chewed the shit out of a slick-talking, flag-waving land rapier! And I want to be in on the fun!

—from Oregon

To the Editor,

There is no greater good for a man to fight for the survival of those things or ideals not directly related to himself. Yet although wilderness is directly related to human survival, this is the basis of the wilderness movement, which Earth First! epitomizes. To selfishly withhold the biological and spiritual ground of our being from a reckless faction, a hoarde of thieving vandals that know no measure but the unrestrained gathering of material wealth immeasurable.

Without wilderness, we lose the environmental foundation of all life, and our world becomes a sterile and empty shell without heart or soul, doomed to the greedy mastery of its very offspring.

The challenge has been made, and our time is at hand. The meek and silent will be steamrolled by the device of their apathy—the very fuel that nourishes the machines of Corporate humanity and benefits those fools who have detached themselves from their world.

Lift up your hearts and raise your voices my friends and brethren, the last battle is about to be fought.

—from Oregon

Letter to the Editor:

I never met a roadless area I didn't like. (With no apologies to WR).

TJ Lillebo  
Northeast Oregon

Dear EF'ers, I understand that an exciting, well-produced documentary about EF is now complete. Apparently one of its strong points is the sound track featuring the music of Johnny Sagebrush and the rhetoric of Dave Foreman. Good work gang! Keep it up!

Modestly yours,  
R. Hurricane Hayes  
Co-Producer and  
Sound Recordist

CONT. NEXT PG



# EFF! Grassroots News

Each issue of the EFF! Newsletter shall carry reports, announcements and positions of

our grassroots groups. Please try to keep all material short so we can run every group's news.

## LOCAL YOKELS

Neither Anne Gorsuch, Bob Burford, or Honorary Earth First! Membership Chairman James Watt showed at the new Circle Square Community Center, February 11, in Missoula, but 175 supporters enjoyed Missoula EFF's New Earth Celebration anyway. At \$2 a head for unlimited beer and music by Alexander Hiwatt's Holocaust, Missoula EFF made a smashing (and smashed) debut. Besides unmitigated partying, EFFers were entertained by skits, poems, and an open forum at the microphone. The evening allowed eco-nuts to meet each other, and actually made a few bucks for the group. Missoula's now organizing its group into committees to plan strategies for several threatened areas. About thirty people attended the latest meeting, which competed with a Gary Snyder lecture-poetry reading at the same time (I know, why wasn't Snyder invited to the EFF! meeting?)

Here's an outline of planned Missoula EFF! projects:

1. High School Education: Primarily will be presentations on energy use, particularly oil. Our goal is to stop the blatant misuse of gasoline by Higgins Avenue cruisers. We hope to educate high schoolers on the environmental impacts of wasting gasoline. Bill LaCroix will make a presentation to the Hellgate High School Union of Student Awareness Thursday, February 25.
2. Tentatively, EFF! also hopes to sponsor a teen Friday night (date undetermined) Walkathon, in which participants solicit pledges from local business for blocks walked in lieu of driving that night. All proceeds will go to the American Lung Association in support of clean air. If we can swing it, we'll also sponsor a teen dance at the Circle Square Community Center that night (located on Higgins). The alternative to cruising is walking and dancing.
2. Rattlesnake Wilderness

non-motorized corridor support walk:

EFF! will sponsor a community walk from Greengough Park to the Rattlesnake National Recreation Area trailhead (5 miles). The purposes will be (a) to show Missoula-area support for the Forest Service to close the corridor above Franklin Bridge to motorized vehicles, and (b) to demonstrate the healthfulness (to humans and the environment) of walking.

3. USSR-US World Championship softball game:

Instead of making millions of American and Russian citizens live under the scepter of a nuclear war threatened by two dozen people, EFF! will invite a team of Russian generals to scrap it out on the softball field with a team of Americans from the Pentagon. The military leaders may vent their anger on the hated enemy in a manner less destructive to Earth and Her inhabitants than nuclear war. EFF! will supply beer and vodka. The winner of the 9 inning contest will rule the world. The loser buys the next keg, or half case of vodka, which-ever is applicable.

4. An April 30 Belane Celebration Benefit for Earth First, followed by a May 1 Earth Day Ceremony.

5. We've also formed committees to plan strategies for support of several threatened local areas.

*This column will be a regular feature of the newsletter. Local contacts should forward reports of their activities, plans, ideas, etc., to Corn Boy, 316 E. Spruce #2, Missoula, MT 59802, one week before Pete's deadline.*

—Corn Boy

## Deadline

Send submissions, news, etc., to the EFF! Newsletter at least three weeks before publication date—next deadline is April 9.

## ATTENTION: All Portland-

Area Earth Firsters

There are plans afoot to strip-mine the Three Sisters, dam our rivers, foul our air, overcut our forests, and numerous other wretched, and mostly irreversible insults to our fair state.

It's time to get together, make some plans, get acquainted and get going!

Many of you in the Portland area joined after our September rally, and I don't have your phone number. I can't contact you without a phone number. Please call me as soon as possible so we can make some plans. Call me even if you *think* I have your number.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

Dave and Bart, EFF! co-founders will be in Portland to help us get sort of organized, probably mid- to late-April. There will be a party/meeting. Call me for details.

Eileen Key  
236-7308  
4815 NE Flanders  
Portland OR 97213

Dear EFF!

Greetings. This is to advise you that on January 30, 1982 there was formed at Woodside Farm in Des Plaines, Illinois, the Prairie Grove Group, Earth First!

The Prairie Grove Group was formed to oppose the wanton despoliation of our home—Mother Earth. Our main concern at this juncture however, is the continuing destruction of our remaining native prairie lands. Indeed, the name, Prairie Grove Group, Earth First! was first used at a public meeting during which the fate of a small, albeit invaluable, parcel of prairie land was discussed. Quite providentially, the remnant of a once magnificent prairie was saved.

We dream bright dreams. We dream of vast reserves of rolling native prairie dotted with timbered prairie groves. We dream of clear, running streams and the return of our native fauna. We know that one day—perhaps in the not so distant future—the dream will become a reality.

Cheers, and all the Very Best,

Don Johnson  
The Prairie Grove Group,  
Earth First!  
Des Plaines, Illinois

Dear Earth First!

We at Earth First! commend James Watt for his benevolent and generous gesture to remove all designated wilderness from oil and gas leasing until the year 2000. It's comforting to know our American heritage is saved from 18 more years.

We suggest, however, that Mr. Watt carry his proposal a bit further. Specifically, Earth First! believes it will be in the nation's best interest to expand to proposal to also protect all RARE II, Fish and Wildlife Service, and BLM Wilderness Study Areas from all mineral exploration. Additionally, we believe the exploration moratorium should be extended to: "As long as the grass shall grow, the sun shall shine, and the rivers flow."

You're as much as trickster as the coyote you wish to eradicate, James.

Yours on behalf of Earth,  
T. Moore for EFF!  
Earth First!  
Circle Sq. Community Center  
Missoula



## Just yesteryear. . .

In the ghost town of Cooney, New Mexico, during April of 1980, a small group of people calling themselves Earth First! went about setting up a plaque to honor the environmental efforts of Victorio.

The *Silver City Daily Press* carried a photo of the plaque, which read:

### VICTORIO

Outstanding Preservationist and Great American  
This monument celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the great Apache chief, Victorio's, raid on the Cooney mining camp near Mogollon, New Mexico on April 28, 1880. Victorio strove to protect these mountains from mining and other destructive activities of the white race. The present Gila Wilderness is partly a fruit of his efforts.

Erected By  
The New Mexico Patriotic Heratige(sic) Society

Gordon Solberg later published an account of these early Earth Firsters in the *Dry Country News*. We have excerpted the following passage from that article:

"We decided to celebrate Victorio's raid," one of the organizers explained, "because we feel that during the seventies the environmental movement has been co-opted by the establishment. Conservationists have grown soft and moderate; we've lost our passion, our fervor. We hope to revitalize the environmental movement with a fiery dedication to the cause of the

most creatures for quite a long time. We are shitting pretty in our own nest.

I tend to avoid fanatics of any kind, but am starting to realize that if I am in danger of being a fanatic myself it is in connection with wilderness preservation. A friend of mine says that all of her best friends are fanatics, but she prefers to call them "people who are obsessed." "Obsessions," she says, "are good because they require time, they are not easy. They require much exploration, experimentation and examination. They have their own rules. They have their own clocks. And they are finding meaning in a meaningless world." Amen. As an obsessed person I have no choice but to send you this money in a kind of symbolic recognition of the group of earth-loving brothers and sisters that I have already belonged to for so long. If we can generate some *solid* resistance to the insanity of endless corporate growth and the spreading of the fungus before the bastards turn this entire

## Thanks!

Earth First! has been gaining terrific support. The cards, letters and donations have been steadily coming in. The "To Be Answered" box ought to keep me busy for a week, just as soon as I get a break from newsletter production.

As your newsletter editor, I'm trying to keep the cost of publishing this thing at a minimum. The expenses for production, printing and mailing each issue runs at about \$650.

Nevertheless, this editor and fellow EFFer would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have contributed your words, your energy and your hard-earned dollars to Earth First! and to this newsletter. If there weren't people like you, I'd have to call the situation hopeless.

o Pete



# Editorials

*Violence is as American as cherry pie.*

—H. Rap Brown

## VIOLENCE AND EARTH FIRST!

Editorial by Dave Foreman

One could expand Rap Brown's comment to this: Violence is as human as the opposable thumb. But the question we as Earth lovers must face is whether violence is ever justified in defense of Mother Earth against those who would destroy her for their *short-term material profit and power thrills*. As I said to the slimy little suppository representing the Mountain States Legal Foundation during a panel discussion in Denver last fall, "If you come home and find a bunch of Hell's Angels raping your wife, old mother, and eleven year old daughter, you don't sit down and talk balance with them or suggest compromise. You get your twelve gauge shotgun and blow them to hell."

Many environmentalists, however, say violence, whether against machines or people, merely perpetuates the whole violent, destructive cycle, that Earth rape is due to our violent nature, that the only way we can break the violent cycle is to step out of it ourselves, to use only passive resistance against those who would destroy Earth and us.

This, of course, is the approach advocated by Gandhi and Martin Luther King. I admire it. Unfortunately, I am still an animal; still a caveman despite my Levis and boots. I can not turn the other cheek. That just seems to me to be a good way to get a sore face. If you could protect an old growth Douglas fir forest in Oregon from logging by spiking a few trees, would you? If you could save the last of the blue whales from extinction by ramming a pirate whaler, would you? If you could save the Washakie Wilderness from roads and oil rigs by sabotaging a rig or bulldozer, would you? If you could stop an acid rain polluter in Ohio by dumping human sewage over his desk, would you?

Just as most of us have our price (I'll sell out for a hundred grand a year, if anyone's listening), most of us have a point of no return where we'll fight back. I think many of us have already reached that point.

EARTH FIRST! does not advocate violence or monkey-

wrenching. That is an individual choice. And in a diverse society there are many choices. Some of us may choose to fight for the Earth by wearing high heels and lobbying for the Sierra Club in Washington, D.C. Some of us may choose to engage in nonviolent peaceful protests such as blockading the route into a wilderness area in order to bar oil rigs. Others, with a thinner veneer of civility, may choose another approach. I can respect and understand all of these people. I wish them well.

Violence against machines is a personal decision. No one can make that decision for anyone else. EARTH FIRST! is, I hope, large enough to contain all this diversity.

If we report on the activities of monkeywrenchers, it is not because we want *you* to do it, too. But there are people out there trying to save their Mother from rape and their story must be told also.

—Dave Foreman

## Editorial—Bart Koehler

The first paragraph of the Wilderness Act states in grand terms that:

"It is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an *enduring* resource of wilderness."

That may be the stated policy of Congress, but it certainly is not the policy of Ronnie Ray-gun and his "goon squad": James Watt, John Crowell and others. Those snarling faces want to add a few words after "wilderness"—"until the year 2000, then kiss it good-bye."

A recent chain of events has placed this "enduring resource of wilderness" in extreme jeopardy. Designated wilderness and those lands from the Forest Service RARE II and BLM Wilderness inventory that deserve wilderness protection have been caught in an incredible endurance test.

James Watt said recently, "A battle is going on, and James Watt has become a lightning rod and a symbol of change..." It has become very clear that lightning can strike in the same place twice, three times, four times and more. Watt must be protected by his Coors belt buckle.

This self-proclaimed "symbol of change" started his deadly business by proposing to open up wilderness areas for oil and gas

development. He was driven either by Manifest Destiny, or the need to get those last few drops of oil out before the Judgement Day.

Suddenly, Watt came under intense heat from members of the House (especially Manny Lujan—see Yule 1981 edition of EFi Newsletter) to place a moratorium on oil and gas development in wilderness. Under duress from the likes of Republican Dick Cheney and Lujan, Watt eventually established a six month moratorium.

The six month moratorium didn't offer much protection for the American wilderness... nor for Republican senators who wanted to get re-elected and Republican House members who wanted to gain control of the House by getting more of their pals in office. Ray-gun's friends and lackeys knew they needed some more political insurance. They couldn't have cared less about the "enduring resource of wilderness."

It's no coincidence that Watt announced a six month extension of the moratorium, long before such an extension was needed. He wanted his buddies to be comfortable back in their fat, Washington, D.C. seats before the wilderness lightning struck again.

For example, Republican Senator Malcolm Wallop is in a tough re-election race back in Wyoming. Watt credited Wallop as being the main force behind the decision to extend the moratorium. Wallop and Watt look good and the heat's off during the campaign... or is it?

Last night I almost fell out of my seat when I heard Watt say that he was going to Congress—on behalf of Ray-gun—to ask for legislation that would withdraw wilderness areas from oil and gas drilling, and mining activity, until the year 2000. This same man favored a 20 year *extension* of the deadline for oil and gas leasing in wilderness in December. Now this! Do you smell a rat? A dead fish?

Watt is asking for the legalized rape of the wilderness—after the year 2000. Once 2000 hits, there would be a mandate to open the wilderness system up—to dig it, drill it and kill it. Watt also wants to release and eliminate from wilderness protection qualified National Forest lands and BLM public lands as soon as possible in the next few years.

Watt's proposal amounts to a dangerous *temporary* withdrawal of wilderness areas from consideration for oil and gas mining. Under this scheme there will be no permanent protection, only the spectre of permanent destruction.

In contrast, there certainly is permanent protection offered in the Burton Bill. Watt's latest moves should boost efforts to keep the Burton Bill in the forefront.

Watt and his flock are circling in the sky like so many buzzards waiting to pick over the kill. It is part of their game plan to determine the Burton Bill, and mine the Wilderness.

While the Wilderness Act does have its flaws, it establishes a permanent oil and gas drilling and mining ban (subject to existing rights) effective January 1, 1984. If Watt's proposal to withdraw wilderness areas from drilling and mining until the year 2000 was legitimate, wouldn't he move quickly to extend the current moratorium until 1984?

"Death Valley Days" Ray-gun and his "20 Mule Team" Act are steadily pushing to dismantle, dismember and destroy our existing wilderness system and all other lands that should become part of our "enduring resource of wilderness."

The "Death Valley Days" plan also includes the following actions:

- John "Chainsaw" Crowell, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture and lord over the Forest Service, is quietly going to hearings and quickly reducing the acreage proposed for wilderness proposals in Oregon, Washington and Wyoming. It's no surprise that the lands chopped from wilderness proposals have trees on them.

• The Eagle Cap Wilderness in Oregon is faced with a domestic sheep stampede. The Forest Service is proposing a ten-fold increase in sheep grazing, and some of the allotments haven't been used in 40 years and are now devoted to wildlife. This could set a dangerous pattern within the Wilderness system.

A few side notes:

- Senator James McClure (Idaho), one of Ray-gun's favorite thugs, is cranking up his national "release" bill for RARE II lands.
- Wyoming's Republican delegation has introduced their Wyoming Wilderness Act of 1982. It is quite an "Act" alright, and they threw in an oil and gas withdrawal bone to placate us so they could destroy the bulk of Wyoming's wild forest lands.

• And, there may be a strip mine in the heart of the Three Sisters Wilderness in Oregon. All for punniced to be used for "kitty litter," undoubtedly a strategic mineral.

The Wilderness Wars are hotter than ever. My old friend Hamlet (remember, he's the one who discovered and killed the rat behind the curtain) put it this way:

*"To be, or not to be—that is the question—Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, Or to take up arms against a sea of troubles..."*

Well, for me, it's time to fight with our arms, voices, minds and hearts. We cannot allow the wilderness to sink in a "sea of troubles." This will be an endurance test for us all.

## Wyoming Wilderness Wars 1982

There's a new steamroller in the West. It is one of the worst RARE II bills ever written. Yes, it is brought to us by three Republicans—it is the Wyoming Wilderness Act of 1982.

There is one bit of good news: there is an oil and gas and mining withdrawal provision for the wilderness areas.

The rest of the bill is simply terrible. Some features of the bill are:

- It only proposes four areas—Gros Ventres, Cloud Peak, DuNoir and Popo Agie—two of them are existing Primitive Areas; the other two have some form of protection.
- The proposals are all much smaller than Forest Service RARE II recommendations.
- It amounts to only 479,367 acres for wilderness.
- It releases over 3.6 million acres from wilderness consideration.

• Finally, it does not propose over 500,000 acres for wilderness proposed by Carter Administration and Forest Service.

The bill is more than a far cry from the proposal by Wyoming wilderness supporters—called "Alt. W" which proposes over 20 areas and 2.47 million acres for wilderness.

The Wyoming Wilderness Act is a "rock and ice" disaster. It is totally inadequate. In fact, we'd be better off without the bill. There is too much to lose if it passes. We will fight it to the bitter end.

If you want to write:

Dick Cheney  
House of Reps.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Sen. Malcolm Wallop  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Sen. Alan Simpson  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

## Editorial—Howie Wolke

*I've got something to say, boys, I've got something to say. Just as soon as I find a way, boys, I've got something to say.*

—David Allen Coe

Earth First! is growing up. Just two years ago, an idea began to take shape among a handful of friends who had worked together in the wilderness movement for years: the idea that the established environmental groups had lost their heart, soul and guts—and that a radical, no-compromise voice was desperately needed. So, from the vast sea of raging moderation, irresponsible compromise, knee-jerk rhetorical Sierra Club dogma, and unknowing (ok, sometimes knowing) duplicity in the systematic destruction of the Earth, a small seed of sanity sprouts: Earth First!

Although I've not in recent months been able to spend much time helping to build the organization (guiding all summer, working on a ranch in winter, and trying to stop timber sales and oil rigs here in northwest Wyoming during my spare time), I continue to be amazed, yet proud of Earth First! Particularly of the people who make it tick. Hell, a year ago I'd never heard of Pete Dustrud, and when I first caught the name Spurs Jackson, I thought it was an advertisement for something you wear on your cowboy boots. The talent, imagination, commitment, and support that EFi has attracted during its infancy is astounding. But the ultimate test of EFi's success will be if we can effectively stop or slow the destruction of our planet, or if we can help throw a monkeywrench into the gears of the great multinational corporate/big government machine.

The preservation of naturally functioning ecosystems—of wilderness—represents the absolute highest level of human cultural and intellectual evolution. As Dave Foreman has said, the wilderness concept is a truly radical concept. It is also the most basic necessity for the long term health and survival of our planet. I'm talking about REAL WILDERNESS: not wilderness with hard rock mines, oil leases, cattle grazing, gigantic Sierra Club outings, water storage projects, and landing strips. Not the tiny, wildlife-poor wilderness that the government and mining companies allowed us to "create" back in 1964. No, I'm talking about wilderness as proposed in the EFi platform: wilderness in

## RARE II STATE WILDERNESS BILLS

Moderate conservationists in several states are pushing RARE II wilderness bills for their states (Oregon, Utah, Arizona), the California bill is being considered in the Senate, and the Wyoming congressional delegation has just introduced a truly abominable rock and ice RARE II wilderness bill for their state. The unbelievably bad Watt/Lujan Wilderness Destruction Act (HR 5603) is sure to goose the state by state RARE II bill process. This is an issue that local EFi's should be involved in. Develop your own recommendations for Forest Service wilderness in your state (such as in Oregon where EFi is proposing 6 million acres of NF wilderness as compared to the Oregon Wilderness Coalition's paltry 3.5 million acres). Go to the hearings. Push

your larger acreages. Ask that roads be closed and larger wilderness areas be designated. Don't be shy. Don't compromise. And don't let the pussy cat environmental groups in your state accept table scraps like New Mexico, Idaho, and Colorado conservationists already have. Bart Koehler and I are available as an EFi SWAT Team to come to your state and help develop and promote EFi RARE II recommendations.

On a related note: BLM is developing their statewide wilderness recommendations. The same tactics apply. Don't sell out. Develop EFi proposals for real wilderness. Offer them as competing recommendations to the crumbs asked for by the Sierra Club and other groups.

—Dave Foreman



# Down with the Dam

## Petition Campaign

multi-million acre chunks that represent all major ecosystems complete with all known biological components. And then some more wilderness just because wilderness is good for its own sake.

And let's not be apologetic for our radical proposals. Dammit, the enemy isn't the least bit apologetic for wanting to cut every stick of timber, squeeze every drop of oil, and stripmine every valuable mineral from our mother, the Earth. I've never heard Exxon, Amex, Louisiana-Pacific, Watt, Burford, Gorsuch, or any other land-raping scum apologize for their destruction. Our function is to speak for the Earth First! It's to fight for actions and programs that are necessary in order to preserve the health and diversity of our biosphere. We need not worry about how to restructure society in order to accommodate our proposals. Fuck society! We're not in the business of trying to save civilization. There are plenty of others trying to do just that. We need to remain focused on protecting and re-creating the Earth's wilderness ecosystems, because nobody else is doing this!

Earth First! has its roots deeply imbedded in the wilderness of the western U.S. We've recognized that wilderness preservation is the most important and urgent necessity on Earth. Once wilderness is gone, it usually requires geological time for nature to re-create it. And once the living organisms that depend on wilderness become extinct, they're gone forever, so the earth becomes a little more impoverished; a little less stable.

I don't mean to downplay the importance of other aspects of the environmental struggle. But eventually, the gears of this civilization will likely come grinding to a halt—sheared off by the immense weight of its own blundering, greed and idioy. And when this glorious day occurs, the sky will gradually return to blue, and our imprisoned and polluted waters will once again begin to run free and clear, as our population is forced—one way or another—to return to a manageable level. But it will all be for naught, unless we've had the vision and determination to save wilderness and the wild things dependent upon it.

## A Petition to the United States Congress

The construction of Glen Canyon Dam and the filling of Lake Powell on the Utah/Arizona border was probably the single most destructive project to the environment ever undertaken in the United States. It destroyed an incomparable area of red rock canyon wilderness. We, the undersigned citizens of the

we will see it. Last spring, Ed Abbey launched the EARTH FIRST! petition campaign calling on Congress to order the dismantling of Glen Canyon Dam. We have collected several thousand signatures but we need at least ten thousand to make any impact. A copy of the petition is included in this newsletter. Make copies of it, get signatures, and send them in to EFF! Our petition campaign can have a major impact on river preservation throughout the country. (If everyone would get signatures like Missoula and Tucson have done, we could have tens of thousands of signatures.)

—Dave Foreman

Salt Lake City, Utah 84126

Petitions need a signature, then printed name, address and zip.

# Roadshow Revives

## On the Road Again

The EARTH FIRST! Road Show was such a success that we couldn't just let it die (although Johnny Sagebrush and Dave Foreman nearly did), so we have resurrected it.

In return for some travel money, Johnny Sagebrush and Dave Foreman will come to your area with the Glen Canyon Dam movie, songs from the Little Green Songbook, and fired-up speeches and tall tales (we're happy to report that Johnny has

United States of America, hereby petition our elected representatives in Congress assembled to pass legislation directing the breaching of Glen Canyon Dam and the draining of Lake Powell to allow the Colorado and San Juan Rivers to cleanse their canyons and begin to recreate their wilderness.

some new stories), and Dave presented the EFF! message to 75 people in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in January, and to another 75 in Enterprise, Oregon, in February. Johnny and Dave will both be at the annual meeting of the Utah Wilderness Association March 27, in Salt Lake City. Contact EFF! in Salt Lake City on how to book them in your area. We particularly would like to present the Road Show at state-wide meetings like the UWA.

Only paid-up subscribers will be receiving the EFF! Newsletter from now on. The expense involved in producing this rag prohibits mass distribution, and we feel it's only fair to concentrate our efforts toward giving our paid subscribers the best newsletter possible.

This isn't meant to imply that only paid-up subscribers are Earth Firsters! If you or someone you know is broke, but still place the best interests of Earth First!, we'll be glad to work it out so interested folks get this paper. Just send us a note to that effect. Nevertheless, Earth First! does need money from those who can afford it. With each issue, we have been gaining 50-100 subscribers, which has been just enough to get the next issue going (we now have close to 1,000 subscribers).

In conjunction with this issue, we're mailing a subscription appeal to all unpaid subscribers. If half of those people are Earth Firsters, and pay up, we should be set for the next six months or so.

Meanwhile, this is YOUR newsletter. If you have suggestions, written material, news reports, letters to Earth First!, or even more money you can afford to send in, please do!

Regional contacts for Earth First! may request extra copies to be sent to them. Organizing is tough business and we're sure you can use all the help you can get.

Also, to save several hundred dollars on postage, we are mailing this newsletter 3rd class bulk rate, and we will continue to mark your newsletter, "Forward or return postage guaranteed." Therefore, please send any change of address ASAP.

Earth First! would like to see the coyotes going about their business of rodent and insect control, and singing in the wilderness. But in fact, we are, through our tax dollars, poisoning coyotes, their habitat and other inhabitants with 1080 and other poisons.

B.A. BADGER

# Foundation For EFF!

EARTH FIRST! claims that it is more of a movement than an organization and so far we have done pretty well. We still have no officers, bylaws, constitution, tax exemption, or other bureaucratic slop. This is great for keeping us lean and mean, action-oriented, and grassroots in nature. However, even a wayward-wind type of outfit like EFF! needs money to keep on blowing and the fact that contributions to EFF! are not tax-deductible makes it a little difficult to raise money.

Therefore, a separate organization, the EARTH FIRST! FOUNDATION, is currently being organized which will have 501(c)(3) status with the IRS (which means that contributions to it are deductible for income tax purposes). Tentatively, the EFF! Foundation plans to engage several consultants at part time fees to conduct educational and research projects on various

issues of interest to EFF! (like Ned Ludd Books, exploitation threats to wilderness, etc.). The Foundation will also make grants to local EFF! groups and to EFF! for specific projects. Among the consultants to be funded by the Foundation are Bart Koehler, Tony Moore, and Dave Foreman. As soon as the Foundation is set up and has its tax status, this newsletter will let you know. So, if you're looking for a place to drop a couple of tax-deductible C-notes, have we got a deal for you! Currently, however, tax-deductible contributions can be made to EARTH FIRST! through the Canyonlands Environmental Education Center (Box 177, Moab, Utah 84532). Make out your check to C.E.E.C. and send it in. Indicate that it is to be forwarded to EFF! C.E.E.C.'s IRS ID # is 94-2427592. (Don't worry, though, EARTH FIRST! itself will remain a disorganization.)

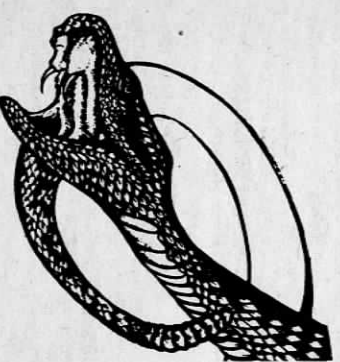
## Private Land Acreage

### By State

The Sagebrush Rebels (better known in the earlier days as bunco artists, used car salesmen, and rustlers) love to beat their breasts about how unfortunate the western states are in the amount of private land they contain. They claim that the economies of the poor western states are strangled by the huge amounts of federal lands and the small amount of private land available for good 'ol red blooded American free enterprise (otherwise known as rape, scrap, and ruin).

Tim McKay of the Northeast Environmental Center in Arcata, California, thought it might be interesting to figure up just how much private land per capita there is on a state by state basis. We herewith present his calculations (based on 1979 data). Use it to toss cold water on the next Sagebrush Rebel you see frothing at the mouth.

1. Alaska	94.96
2. Montana	83.87
3. Wyoming	71.14
4. South Dakota	66.87
5. North Dakota	64.02
6. New Mexico	41.81
7. Nebraska	30.65
8. Kansas	21.85
9. Idaho	21.18
10. Arizona	16.60
11. Colorado	15.46
12. Oklahoma	14.69
13. Utah	14.02
14. Nevada	13.90
15. Arkansas	13.85
16. Texas	12.31
17. Iowa	12.27
18. Minnesota	11.76
19. Mississippi	11.72
20. Oregon	11.58
21. Vermont	11.46
22. Virginia	9.44
23. Missouri	8.64
24. Washington	7.69
25. West Virginia	7.62
26. Wisconsin	7.02
27. Louisiana	6.91
28. Georgia	6.84
29. Kentucky	6.83
30. South Carolina	6.20
31. New Hampshire	5.68
32. Tennessee	5.67
33. Maine	5.57
34. North Carolina	5.23
35. Indiana	4.19
36. Hawaii	3.76
37. Michigan	3.58
38. Florida	3.46
39. Illinois	3.13
40. Ohio	2.41
41. Pennsylvania	2.39
42. California	2.35
43. Delaware	2.10
44. New York	1.72
45. Maryland	1.47
46. Connecticut	1.00
47. Massachusetts	.85
48. Rhode Island	.72
49. New Jersey	.63
50. Alabama	.29



Howie Wolke  
Owl Creek, Wyoming  
February, 1982

# Cat Litter

## Open-Pit Mining on Rock Mesa

Rock Mesa, located at the base of 10,350-foot South Sister in Oregon's Three Sisters Wilderness is the unique result of a volcanic event similar to the present dome-building activity on Mount St. Helens.

U.S. Pumice Co. of Burbank, California, plans to develop an open-pit mine on Rock Mesa to remove a non-strategic mineral, block pumice. The pumice is of two commercial grades, abrasive and decorative. Abrasive products include scouring blocks for grills, toilet bowls and swimming pools; and cosmetic aids for removing bunions and callouses. Decorative pumice is sold for veneer pasted on walls of buildings and as boulders for landscaping features. The residue is sold for kitty litter and briquettes for gas fired hamburger grills.

It is an expensive fight. We need your help to finance current legal fees and public education projects. It is the integrity of the Three Sisters Wilderness worth, to you, the price of a hamburger, dinner for two, a pair of boots, a fishing rod, a camera? Make out your check to: The Friends of the Three Sisters Wilderness, Rock Mesa Fund and mail to 271 West 12th Avenue, Eugene, OR 97401. Phone 344-0675



Jose Knighton

# 1080

Tricky Dick banned the use of sodium fluoracetate (Compound 1080) for predator killing in 1972. Since that time its widespread use has continued in the western states, albeit illegally. Senators and representatives sucking for cattle corporations bucks have lobbied for a decade for reinstated federal support of 1080. Along with Reagan, they have been pressuring Watt, and Watt has in turn been pressuring Gorsuch. In January, the EPA overturned Nixon's 1080 ban.

Earth First! would like to see the coyotes going about their business of rodent and insect control, and singing in the wilderness. But in fact, we are, through our tax dollars, poisoning coyotes, their habitat and other inhabitants with 1080 and other poisons.



# Nuking the Canyons

Continued from Page 1

five others). They have also lost a few million cubic feet of propane in this same formation the DOE is now considering for a nuke dump.

Gibson Dome (proposed site for the dump) borders not only Canyonlands, but also Bridger Jack Mesa Wilderness Study Area and the Lockhart Basin WSA. Plus, it would squat in the midst of the 10 million-acre Escalante Preserve proposed, demanded by Earth First!

In a paradigm of haste, the DOE concludes that it is "extremely improbable that biologically important concentrations of the wastes will ever reach the human environment."

And be damned with the planet or Mother Earth, right??

They were dead wrong on MX, but these uranium blockheads don't seem to get the picture yet. Planting bombs and throwing irradiated junk all over the earth threaten to poison all living organisms.

Meanwhile, the DOE is free to pursue its two-headed monster gone berserk, like a core melting down.

As early as 1958, the USGS identified salt deposits for potential dumping of spent nuke fuel. Fifteen states were identified by the old AEC—the same outfit who said fallout was safe when above-ground atomic bomb "testing" was going on. The AEC had to pull out of Lyons, Kansas

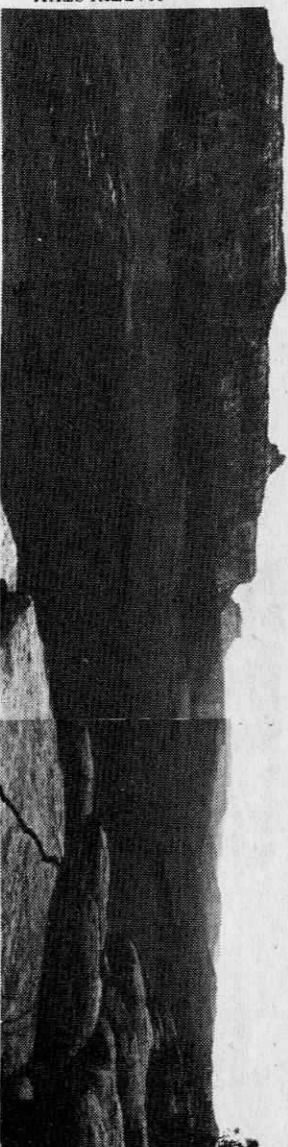
in an earlier attempt to site a dump there because too many "variables" were found.

By 1980, plans were rapidly progressing toward full-scale attack on the Paradox Basin in southern Utah. The site of the nuke waste attack is almost certain to be Gibson Dome. The *Paradox Area Report*, a 1981 Bechtel/Woodward-Clyde paper, recommended another part of the basin as more favorable on three important counts—seismic stability, impact on WSAs and National Parks, and flooding potential—but Gibson Dome was chosen as the "preferred" dump site.

The DOE plans to bury their radioactive nightmare a few thousand feet down in one of the salt layers. The NRC ruled in 1981 that nuke dumps and plants can't be sited closer than five miles from known surface earthquake faults. Gibson Dome lies just six miles from the Needles Fault Zone and the Grabens, which were formed by salt flow fracturing the overlying formation. The Needles is a beautiful pinnacle area formed by salt flow in Quaternary time. But the DOE is convinced that there is "negligible faulting" here.

The *Paradox Area Report* states that Lockhart Basin (near the site) formed from the dissolution of probably 1,100 vertical feet of salt. The report also states

MARTIN STUM



Davis Canyon. The nuke waste from all the nuke industries will be dumped here, if we let it.

that oil has been found just 14 miles northeast of Gibson Dome. East of the "site" Hatch Mesa shows evidence of northwest-trending faults that may well run into the proposed nuke site. Groundwater in Hatch Mesa flows north and west along these faults toward the Colorado River.

Initially, there will be plenty of destruction to plant and animal life, pollution of air and scarce water, plus destruction of vistas at Canyonlands. Numerous Anasazi ruins in the region, representing Basketmaker through Pueblo periods, will no doubt be vandalized. The Salt Creek Archaeological District (on the national register of historic places) is less than a half mile from the proposed dump site.

A 32-mile railroad spur is planned for the region, as well as major utility lines, highways and an airport, or two. And a coal-fired plant will be built nearby to provide abundant power for this madness!

Eight million tons of earth and salt will be removed and dumped where thousands where to make room for 700,000 cubic feet of the deadliest poison technology has ever produced.

Grassroots opposition to a Canyonlands National Nuclear Waste Park is growing. Earth First! and others have denounced the dump.

Even Governor Matheson himself is on record as opposing dumping radioactive wastes in Utah. Recently, Matheson fought especially hard against the MX shell game.

"It takes a lot of leaps of faith to be confident it's safe," said Genevieve Atwood recently of the salt dome scheme. Atwood is director of the Utah Geological and Mineral Survey, and a member of the governor's Nuclear Waste Repository Task Force.

"First you've got to trust the scientists," said Atwood. "Then you've got to trust the engineers. Finally, you've got to trust that the work will be done right."

A gas company consultant and Harvard neurobiologist Bill Hedden, who lives in Castle Valley, Utah, recently challenged the results of DOE studies charging that important facts were withheld at public hearings.

Drillers hit natural gas in the Mississippian Formation under the salt dome, Hedden said. "That was totally covered up by the DOE representative in the public hearings."

Republican Congressman, Dan Marriott, has described storage of nuclear waste in the Pacific as a possible alternative to storage in southern Utah. He also suggested financial compensation be made to the people of Marshall Islands, thereby setting a precedent for compensating southern Utah radiation fallout victims.

During his term, Marriott has been to Saudi Arabia, Israel, Egypt, Ivory Coast, Ireland, Italy, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Nigeria on his "fact finding" tours, but he can't seem to find any facts here.

For his part, Marriott said of his tour of the South Pacific, "Guam should become economically stable enough to be adopted as the 51st state of the union."

But the worst part of this dump idea is the transportation of the waste. In 1978, DOT reported that if only a single spent nuke fuel cask broke near a large city, 5,000 human deaths and \$2 billion in property damage would result. An area the size of Pennsylvania could become "off limits" for a few hundred thousand years. Nevertheless, on February 1, 1982, new regulations went into effect designating the nation's interstate highway system as the preferred shipping route for nuclear waste.

So, what shall we do? Earth First! demands that all nukes be shut down first, and that all waste be adequately contained. Then, and only then, will we talk about the disposal of their garbage. The Feds are under pressure from the utilities, so let's put the pressure on both of them!

—B.A. Badger

"We had a meeting scheduled with DOE on January 6, but they didn't show up and didn't call. We haven't been able to get on any of their mailing lists. We've had a very difficult time getting DOE to acknowledge that there is a park there."

—Pete Perry,  
Superintendent of  
Canyonlands, Arches and  
Natural Bridges, Utah

"Don't weep for the Earth,  
fight to save her."

Motto at Sacred Black  
Hills Gathering

"If El Salvador is to be  
another Viet Nam, so be it."

—Dan Marriott,  
Congressman from Utah

"Get your guns, you cowardly sons  
of bitches, and get into the woods."  
—Mother Jones, 1912



Looking south along Colorado River in Canyonlands National Park. Nuke waste would be trained in along route off to the left.

## Dumping on the Dump

A few weeks ago, many of you received a flyer announcing the march and relay race being organized by the Grand County Concerned Citizens' Coalition (GCCCC). This event is designed to draw some attention to the absurdity of the DOE's plan to site the nation's nuke waste can in southern Utah, right next to the Needles District of Canyonlands National Park. (Mississippi recently imposed a moratorium on an DOE activity there and the governor of Texas has told DOE to get out of their state, too. Now, Governor Matheson of Utah has the ball in his hands, but he is being pressured by southern Utah politicians to bring the dump here.)

The walk/run event should be getting under way by the time this newsletter gets to you. On March 21, the walk portion of the activities will begin at Davis Canyon, where marchers will hike the back-country route where high-level radioactive waste is to be shipped in. Five days later, on March 27, the relay

race will commence from Moab, Utah, where a succession of runners will carry a petition and resolution to the steps of the Utah State Capitol. A rally is planned for Monday, March 29, in Salt Lake to greet the runners.

Earth First! is assisting with this demonstration, but is demanding that the DOE impose a moratorium on ALL nuclear waste production (shut down the nukes). After which, we will be willing to discuss where to put the waste.

Meanwhile, Ray Tibbets, the Grand County Commissioner, whose little band of Sagebrush Rebels gained the spotlight on July 4, '80, with their invasion of a WSA near Moab, are planning to sabotage this event, whether by "infiltrating" the environmental groups, or by other means. What are these self-styled vigilantes calling themselves? Ray's Raiders, of course.

It promises to be an exciting time around here, what with all the various pro and anti-environmental activity going on.



P. DUSTRUD

Spring blizzard sweeps over Davis and Lavender Canyons.



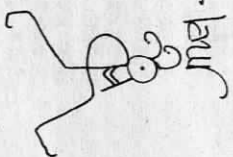
# ARMED WITH VISIONS

By Art Goodtimes



Submissions are invited of poems, songs, spoofs, and all eco-radical or earth-nurturing work, especially from EFF women (to balance the many gonzo male voices) • Include SASE if you want work returned • All rights reserved to the authors • Send pieces to Art Goodtimes, Box 1008, Telluride, CO 81435.

(on paper - but



No batteries needed.

A man's tracks, learning,  
You say the fox came again, early,  
thin as a rail,  
barking,  
full moon, above the trees, above the ice,  
above the ripples of cloud,  
orange with the fires of the north,  
huge.  
You choose a mask, begin to dance,  
I settle for the comfort of smoke,  
Caribou run through my dreams,  
T'saa.

—Gary Lauless

## THE GAY SCIENCE

(to be sung to the tune of "I Write the Songs")  
For work I drive a tractor  
I was born near a reactor  
And they tell us only good can come from it.  
But I'll tell you through my hare-lip  
And I won't let my split-tongue slip  
That the ears that I don't have belong to science.  
I guess I could be bitter  
At the way they slit my shitter  
'Cause my rectal mucous don't know where to go.  
And you'll notice by my gait  
That the leg they had to amputate  
Was in the way of my third flipper hand.  
Ya' know, Progress has a price  
And I guess I've paid mine twice  
But I keep looking to the future anyway.

Where money may get buy  
A brand new pair of eyes  
And plastic faces for the handicapped.  
Chorus  
I am yours, you are mine  
We are everywhere.  
We are sons of that gay science  
Though my lungs are an appliance  
I'll scream it 'till my throat tears ear to ear,  
Progress, Progress! Let us march on hand in hand,  
Where reactors grow like wildflowers  
Into the promised land.

So you wonder, I am sure  
why my attitude's so pure,  
and I admit that it might seem a trifle strange.  
But Con Ed has got a program  
Rehabilitating morons  
who are victims of their energy designs.  
They've grafted what remains  
of my desiccated frame  
to this shiny agricultural machine.

I know the guys will cheer  
in the plants owned by John Deere  
when I compliment them on their gears and hoses.  
But the best, I still know  
comes when I drop my plow  
and cut, and scrape, and fuck my mother Earth,  
so acknowledge your unreason,  
Your bodies are your treason!  
Donate them to an industry today!

—Marc Brown

## TO INHERIT THE LAND

When frost climbs into apples,  
farmers press it clear again  
to fill the winter glasses  
in Woelger's kitchen.  
They breathe their own frost over schnapps  
to revenge the fields  
which bend them  
while Frau Woelger serves the pig  
she has worried years for.  
Woelger's daughter has returned from Australia.  
Frau Woelger is swollen  
to match her work. She speaks  
to the Virgin, to beg  
that among these men  
is one to help the daughter  
forget hot countries,  
grow her mother's clothes  
and love the animals  
she must kill for him.

—David Chorlton

I remember all too well  
my grandfather too weak at 85 to stand  
against the wall heater ducts to relieve  
the pain in his spine and the morning  
my grandmother was being wheeled  
to the nursing home  
(she cried for me the night before:  
"Come help me, Steve, I'm fastened to these tree tops,  
Come help.")  
but now they were taking her  
away, and that is the last sight I had  
of her, our car pulling away from  
the airport...

—Steve Clark

## The Rebirth of My Mouth

Now I return to the forgotten way.  
I throw away my fork and spoon.  
My knife? I will use my mouth for killing now.  
My teeth are sharp enough.  
My jaws are strong enough to tear off chunks of living flesh.  
I can crush skulls with a single bite.  
Rip throats, tear guts in a second.  
Eat the eyes while they still can see  
And the ears while they can still hear.

I began by eating with my fingers.  
Then it was time for my hands to be tied behind my back,  
To bend over the plate and eat like that.  
Then it was time to let myself loose  
four-legged in the woods for a summer.  
To re-learn how to stalk  
or lie in wait for my prey,  
To remember at last the best place to bite,  
to slaughter my food.  
Now I am ready to kiss.  
Now I am ready to speak  
of joy and truth  
with my mouth.

—Antler

## OVERPOPULATION HAIKU

Does Homo Sapiens  
really want condos  
more than condors?

—Jeff Poniewoz

## On the Way to Work

Every fall,  
the County Highway  
Department deposits, truck by  
truck, a huge pile of sand and gravel—  
corner of Bloomfield &  
Ionia Roads. All winter,  
behind it, the young  
Deputy Sheriffs  
hide.

—Stephen Lewandowski

# Let's get down to bare bones

Armed With Visions

EVERYTHING YOU EVER BELIEVED



*Mardy Murie on a wilderness experience, "Whatever inspiration you get might make you a nice sweet personality, but unless you try to do something to save the planet with this personality, then it hasn't profited the world anything."*

## Murie Interview

*Continued from Page 1*

**Query:** The number of visits logged annually in the national parks is perpetually increasing. Given that the parks provide convention facilities, opportunities for hang gliders, opportunities for snowmobilers, and mountaineers, just about every form of recreation one can imagine, do you see the parks as being appropriately involved in all these areas?

**Mrs. Murie:** I think for the good of the future, the park service needs to go back to the National Park Act of 1916, and the wording of that act is, as I understand it, is that every part of the park not needed for utilities and services should be treated as natural areas, as wilderness.

Otherwise, they're not going to be able to satisfy the stipulation laid down in 1916 that the land should be administered and preserved for future generations.

Now, if you apply that rule to national parks, I don't think you would have hang gliders or snowmobilers or certainly not off road vehicles. Many of the things that are now countenanced should be operated in other places, not national parks. I think the national parks should be in the first rank of our preservation ideals.

**Q:** How might one draw a distinction between the various uses that might have a place in the national parks?

**Mrs. Murie:** Well, of course, if most of the areas in the national parks are treated as wilderness, then there are no mechanized vehicles or operations of any kind. In the wilderness areas on the national forests and so on, they don't even allow the use of chain saws for trail work. It has to be done by hand tools. No such noises in the wilderness. And I think the American people can afford to stand by these ideals; I don't think it would hurt anybody to have some really superlative experiences left to us.

**Q:** Would you suggest then that those regulations which apply to wilderness areas should also apply to national parks as a whole?

**Mrs. Murie:** Under the Wilderness Act, each park was supposed to study how much of their area should be wilderness. And, for instance, in the wilderness area plan that was submitted by the park service here, on which we had hearings several years ago, about 97 percent of Yellowstone was to be regarded as wilderness. And I think that is being done. The other operations go in the other percent. Yet all of these things have not been passed through Congress.

I think that's one of the difficult things in the Wilderness Act; they provided for these studies to be made of how much for wilderness and how much for administrative purposes in the parks and then the public hearings and the environmental impact statements and all that. Then it all has to be introduced in Congress—each one of them—and so some of them have gone through and many of them haven't; they've been lost in the press of other things, I guess.

**Q:** This line of questioning is prompted by a recent visit to West Yellowstone...

**Mrs. Murie:** Oh, boy...

**Q:** When I was there, I was stunned by the fact that that area has be-

come a national center for snowmobiling. At Madison Junction, 14 miles in, we were surrounded by the constant hum of snowmobiles...  
**Mrs. Murie:** It doesn't take long for me to get resentful of snowmobiles...

**Q:** And yet in the broader context I ruminated that these people have just as much right to use the resources that are protected for the nation as a whole. Simultaneously I thought that the park service seems actually to be almost a promoter of experiences that don't necessarily seem to be in keeping with protection of the wilderness.

**Mrs. Murie:** I think you've hit on the very point I'd like to emphasize. I think there's been a growing pressure on the park service to consider all recreation, including mechanized recreation, as a very valid part of the activities of visitors to the national parks. Most all of the national parks are outstanding from the standpoint of solitude and scenery and inspiration of many kinds. And I think we need less emphasis on recreation which includes noisy things. I'm very sensitive to noise and I think it's the noise that shatters the impact of an experience in the wilderness.

**Q:** Are you saying that noise in and of itself is incongruous with wilderness experience?

**Mrs. Murie:** Yes, I'm saying wilderness should be left to the noise of the wilderness. If you have a snowmobile or chain saw going, you don't hear the noise of the varied thrush or Wilson warbler or any of the birds that are in the area. You don't hear the chatter of a red squirrel. These things are fractured.

**Q:** If motorized recreation and other "non-wilderness" uses are discouraged, and were the net effect to be a big decrease in the number of people able or likely to visit these facilities, would there be perhaps a net loss from the point of view of society's appreciation of outdoor values?

**Mrs. Murie:** Of course, I don't understand what recreation they get from riding a snowmobile, but they are allowed in the park on all the unplowed roads in the winter time. It seems to me that the most experience they can get from these things is just the mere thrill of speed and passage over the terrain. And they get that on the unplowed roads.

In other parts of the park, I don't know what they experience because the noise would probably chase away wildlife they might see. And I think it would be a limited experience; to me it is limited to the experience of speed and power. And I don't think it's good for their physiques.

**Q:** In light of all this, should a park visitor, then, be entertained or amused by the managers of the park?

**Mrs. Murie:** I don't think so. The parks themselves are enough for any sensitive person, and if a person is insensitive to what's in the parks, then he can just as well drive his automobile along the freeways. I do think we have to have these qualitative standards or else the whole park system will be devoted to, quote, entertainment.

**Q:** ... in competition with the private sector?

**Mrs. Murie:** Yes, and I don't think that's what the national parks should be or were meant to be.

**Q:** As someone who knows and has known the Tetons intimately for decades, what are some of the concrete pressures that you've seen develop in the broad view?

**Mrs. Murie:** Well, we've been talking about snowmobiles for one, but the most important real pressure on this national park is simply the growth of the population in Teton County, the development of more and more houses and condominiums and the great pressure of all the new real estate developers who we've had descend on us.

You might argue that the valley can hold 180,000 people, and we'd still have the national forest and the elk refuge and the national park for recreation, but you know very well if there were that many people, hiking and riding horseback on the trails, having motorboats on the lake and all those things that are now sort of controllable would have a tremendous impact on the parks, would change the whole aspect of it. I really think that is the worst thing, just people.

**Q:** And overuse?

**Mrs. Murie:** That's right; it's destructive. It sounds selfish, I know. I've lived in this valley for 52 years and people might say, well, that's not democratic for you to say nobody more, but we're faced with a physical fact here. There's a saturation point, and we've passed that already.

**Q:** If there is some sort of an objective limit on what the land can support, then how can this be defined, given that the park in particular can be viewed as a public resource, open by its very nature to the nation's people?

**Mrs. Murie:** It's a public resource that the park service is obligated to preserve for the public. And if it can't be preserved in at least half its pristine character, then the park service has done a disservice to the American people. You can't have it both ways: either these priceless areas, which are shrines really, are going to be preserved for the future or they aren't.

**Q:** As Jackson has developed as a resort destination, is there an equal increase in the demand on backcountry resources?

**Mrs. Murie:** Yes, I know more and more people coming to the valley who are interested in only the gentle physical kinds of recreation here which include backpacking, canoeing or floating, and these aren't harmful.

But I'm sure there's more and more of it. We have a growing young population here. I saw that last night at the lecture (Gary Snyder spoke at the Teton Science School). At least 75 percent of the audience I'm sure were young people under 30. Everyone wants to live in Jackson Hole, but that's the sad dilemma. Everybody can't and still have Jackson Hole.

**Q:** These young people have a sensitivity to the park's role...

**Mrs. Murie:** Yes, that's one thing that gives me a little hope. My friend and I were talking about this on the way home last night. These young people are here for a fairly harmless purpose, just wanting to live in this beautiful valley. And I don't think they are the ones who are harming things very much.

But we have another dilemma here, which is the impact of land values, you see. Rich people can come and build houses. The people who service them also have to have someplace to live. Preserving the park resource should be the first duty; it's as simple as that. You could say, for example, that the moose maybe don't mind the snowmobilers, but the mere fact of that intrusion, that noise, just doesn't belong.

There are plenty of other places for them to go. Citizens who come to the parks should have a proprietary feeling of wanting to keep the parks in really good shape, even if they have to sacrifice a little visitation themselves in order to do that. Anyone willing to get out on their own two feet realizes that the backcountry can't be overcrowded or it will be degraded to the extent that it's not the same experience, so these people are willing to wait for campsite.

**Q:** Yes, I was surprised last summer to see the backcountry restrictions working as well as they did, and also surprised to see the sheer density of crowds in some of the more accessible areas like Jenny Lake. It was interesting to try to envision the experiences people were having in these areas and wonder whether it was one they would cherish. And, if it was, whether they were in keeping with the purposes for which the parks were set aside.

**Mrs. Murie:** Yes, you wonder if there is anything akin to a real appreciation or a spiritual experience that a person can have while riding in an automobile; that's kind of an interesting question. I suppose if they saw a moose feeding in a pond by the side of the road and stopped to watch that moose for awhile; I suppose that's something they might remember. But of course I feel the greater experience is away from mechanized equipment, whatever kind it is.

**Q:** Maybe this would depend on the capacity of the individual for experience.

**Mrs. Murie:** I would suppose that heredity and environment and the type of bringing up they had, their whole personality and being enters into this. I think it's possible for a person to have a meaningful experience anywhere where there is a natural environment. It doesn't have to be a huge wilderness. This is a point Gary Snyder brought up last night.

Also, you go into the wilderness for quietness and solitude and meditation. But you don't keep this to yourself. You go back to where you live and live there in light of the same kind of experience you had in the wilderness, so that you carry these experiences into your daily life.

I think the big question is population. I think that unless population is controlled all over the world, there is going to be a tremendous, fatal impact on the world itself. And I think, as I've said in many talks, that nature has some rights and she may demand them. Nature may turn on us. I think we've reached almost the brink of exploitation in this country and all over the world because we're using up our resources so fast. We're damming the rivers and polluting the rivers and doing all of the things that are destructive to the planet. And at the same time there's too many people occupying certain places. You can't close your eyes to it entirely.

**Q:** Given that one of the things that can stem these developments is a strong environmental movement, how can it compete in a world where fewer and fewer people have access to outdoor experience in general? Do you see this as a problem?

**Mrs. Murie:** I like to quote a famous Canadian writer who years ago contributed something to save a canoe area somewhere in Canada. He said he knew he'd never go there, but it did him a lot of good to know it was there. And I think



they're a good many urban people who would still like to know that in our great big United States of America we still cherish some of our natural world that was here before we came. Man has been pretty arrogant; he's going to reap where he sowed one of these days.

Q: One of the feelings among many people at this time is that the environmental movement is elitist because it is only the wealthy who can afford to visit distant wilderness areas.

Mrs. Murie: I don't know what people mean when they say elitist. In my mind they mean people who have plenty of means by which to travel anywhere they want. Is that what they mean?

Q: I would think so....

Mrs. Murie: Well, in my mind, these young people who are experiencing the wilderness, I don't think they would like to hear the term elitist applied to them. They're out there in maybe very minimum equipment and nothing fancy or expensive about anything they're doing. And maybe they're not coming back to their jobs in the city with a great deal to contribute to their fellow man, but at least I don't think they're doing any harm to the universe.

Q: This argument, for example, came up, when preservation of Alaskan lands was discussed.

Mrs. Murie: I don't think that argument applies because as far as I'm concerned these areas are set aside for the present and for the future, and are of such exceptional merit that they need to be preserved whether anybody goes there or not.

I've been very much involved in the Alaskan thing for 10 years or more, and I grew up in Alaska, so I'll have to be excused for feeling very strongly about it. I just feel it's the last reserve the United States has of such grandeur and such beauty that it should be preserved for its own sake. If people visit these areas, they need to go gently and with due respect. I don't think that's too outlandish an idea to try to hold up before the American people.

Q: So the question of utility is subordinate?

Mrs. Murie: Yes.

Q: Looking at the environmental movement in the broadest sense, has it — as some critics argue — begun to lose its constituents?

Mrs. Murie: No, I think the opposite is true. Mr. Watt has helped us a lot. But even aside from that, one thing that has helped us through the Alaska lands controversy is that the conservation organizations have become very close to one another.

The Alaska Coalition was formed of about 40 leading conservation organizations, and that cooperation between one another is something to have now; it persists. They meet about once a month to see where we are, what needs most to be done, how to help one another. So I think that makes for a much stronger force, as far as the Wilderness Society is concerned.

We're trying to put more and more people into the field because we don't have chapters; we're not organized that way. I'm on the council of the Wilderness Society, and this is one thing I've been speaking about — more people who would be visible and act as liaisons with local members.

Q: One of the problems that environmentalists appear to encounter is that they are forced to justify somehow their roles as commentators; they don't have a clear constituency. They talk in terms of values that don't lend themselves to saying, well, these are the 485,000 people for whom I speak.

Mrs. Murie: That's true....

Q: Do you think that environmental spokesmen have been able to maintain a sense of legitimacy in the eyes of the public?

Mrs. Murie: I don't know. I haven't thought about this much. Do you mean that (former) Senator Gaylord Nelson, who is chairman of the Wilderness Society, does he have a problem maintaining his sense of legitimacy?

Q: That's broadly the question, although as a senator I can see that he could speak on anything.

Mrs. Murie: I see; you mean that with some of the others it could be argued they didn't understand the whole issue.

Q: Not that as much as that they represent an imaginary constituency.

Mrs. Murie: I'm sure that in spite of this, conservation people have more impact, more opportunities to speak and more opportunities to influence things than they did 20 years ago. When my husband was director of the Wilderness Society, I don't know. Conservation people were like voices crying in the wilderness.

I think they had a rather lonely experience at times because there were fewer. But they were determined and they were sure of their ideals and beliefs. They thought it was something that was good for everybody, whether everybody agreed to it or not. And in a so-called democracy, we allow people to speak out on their views.

Q: One of the things I notice of conservationists is that in congressional hearings they have to employ the arguments of utility when often the assumptions that wilderness deserves protection on its own merits is left unsaid....

Mrs. Murie: Yes, the utilitarian world. Profits and loss and dividends....

Q: This assumption that wilderness experience is good for people in and of itself is often times left unsaid in the congressional debates. Is this important?

Mrs. Murie: I think it's good for the human psyche, then that means that that human being is a more valuable citizen. My interpretation would be that whatever insights are gained in the wilderness can contribute wisdom to an ordinary citizen to push for material things, like bills through Congress that will keep a river from being polluted.

One thing leads into another; the two should go together. Whatever inspiration you get might make you a nice sweet personality, but unless you try to do something to save the planet with this personality, then it hasn't profited the world anything. Some of these things seem so hopeless, but then I tell my young friends it's more fun to try than to stand in the corner with your face to the wall.

If you really sense your environment, wherever you are, even if it's a small area like a backyard with a few rose bushes in it, you can learn a lot. What you experience anywhere can then be transmitted into action for the betterment of living for everybody.

As an example, I walk down a third of a mile to a channel that's a nice little swimming pool in the summer, and I've tried to leave behind me everything that is of concern to this house and the people who come and go and only experience what I see as I walk: some more gentians blooming since yesterday and a yellow warbler up in the bush. You can have that experience in a very small area.

I think like Gary Snyder's grandmother you can immerse yourself in the small experience that's still

a large one and that enriches your whole living, instead of walking to the swimming hole and thinking about what I'll have for dinner. You can have that experience in a very small area. That's why I think it's so desperately important to have spots of green in the urban environment, and the Wilderness Society has been working on this for years.

Q: To look at the early years of the Wilderness Society, how was the conservation movement seen at that time? You said that your husband and others felt lonely at times, that there wasn't a broad sentiment.

Mrs. Murie: Well, maybe I shouldn't have said lonely because I really don't think they would have felt that themselves. They were people who were truly altruistic and that's why it was such a joy to be suddenly associated with that group of people, the council members of the Wilderness Society.

They were all people who had professions and activities of their own, a full life, but in addition to that they believed in the preservation of this wilderness country and they were willing to put time and effort into it. They weren't just names on a letterhead. I think that that was the time to save some wilderness while we still had it. And if they were the only ones who thought that in the 30's and 40's, so what, they were going to do what they could.

And as Bob Marshall, the founder of the Society said, he felt that the only hope of saving these wild areas was through an organization of spirited people. And they were spirited people.

Our older son, Martin, was working for the Forest Service one summer when the council members were sitting here under a tree. And he hiked over the Tetons and just appeared on the scene here one morning. He went out with his father and met all the council members (he had met only one of them). After awhile he came back into the kitchen where I was busy and he said what a bunch of characters. He had sensed right away there was a good deal of energy there.

Q: At the time, there were other conservation groups, like the Sierra Club and Audubon Society, active in the battles of the day. What was the pertinence of a new group, as the founders saw it?

Mrs. Murie: Well, I think Bob Marshall, who had worked for both the Forest Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs and had travelled widely, I think he felt that preservation of wilderness as such was just not getting enough attention from the other organizations. He felt that there was a need for one organization that was strictly for wilderness, and now we have enlarged that idea to a whole land ethic.

Q: Time is short, and to turn in great brevity to the present, a lot of people in Utah, or should I say Ogden, would wonder if conservationists haven't exaggerated the dangers Watt poses.

Mrs. Murie: He probably hasn't done much in Utah. But I could show you a whole book of things he's done. The interesting thing to me is the attention paid to Watt hasn't just come from Watt but also a lot of other people like editorial writers and cartoonists. I don't think all the Watt opposition has been spearheaded by conservation organizations. The Wilderness Society watches these things of course, and I get envelopes filled with the xeroxes of editorials written about Mr. Watt. The Wilderness Society,

Sierra Club or National Audubon Society couldn't possibly have written them all under other peoples' bylines.

Some of his first statements really alarmed us: moving to allow those off-shore oil leases off the California coast in that very vulnerable area, and his idea that wilderness areas should be opened to oil and gas leasing. And his idea that we shouldn't acquire any more lands for national parks and monuments because we should spend money on updating the existing facilities. Also he wasn't going to use the Land and Conservation Fund, but Congress made him restore some of those funds. Of course, I feel now that every bit of wild country left in this country should be set aside somehow.

Q: In many instances his threats haven't materialized.

Mrs. Murie: That's true, but I feel you've got to be watching every minute. He is accountable to Congress. And I think he started out with a certain arrogance intimating that he wasn't accountable to Congress. The secretary of interior has immense power, but he doesn't have power beyond Congress, and I don't think he realized that for awhile.

## Toxicrats

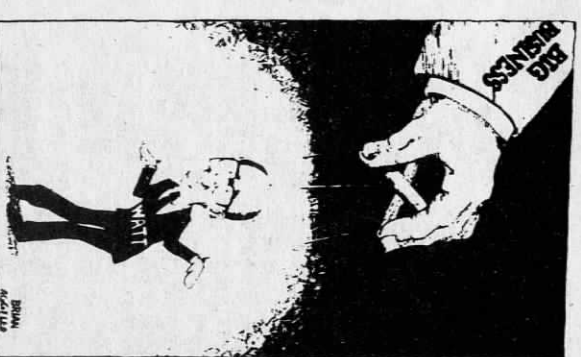
EPA

Not being able to find enough ways to dirty the air and pollute the planet, Anne Gorsuch and her Watt-sized EPA have lifted the ban on chemical companies dumping their toxic wastes. The EPA did this on Monday, March 1.

The lifting of the ban will be in effect for 90 days, which should be just enough time for the chemical companies to dispose of their spring inventory of all the deadly chemicals which have been collecting around their plants.

An EPA spokesman stated that the increased dumping of poisonous wastes would not appreciably affect the environment.

Meanwhile, a strange cloud, stretching for thousands of miles across the sky continues to grow. The EPA has been discussing the possibility of having the war boys launch tactical weapons at the cloud in an effort to break it up. But the cloud is said to be descending upon the EPA offices in Washington, D.C., and there is starting to be some concern about the effect on bureaucrats of hitting the cloud with H-bombs. Earth First! has been doing some investigation of its own and has concluded that neither the cloud or the planned bombing of it will have any appreciable effect on diminishing the EPA's effectiveness.







# Earth First!

# First!

PO Box 26221  
Salt Lake City, UT 84126

Earth First! is growing and picking up energy from all over this country.

In the past year and a half since Earth First!'s inception, we have welcomed more than fifteen hundred people to our "membership" mailing list. Compared to impressive figures, such as a quarter million or so for environmental groups like the Sierra Club or the National Wildlife Federation, our membership seems like an insignificant drop in the bucket. Compare our finances and ability to use money to rent high-priced offices and high-salaried lobbyists and you will find that we don't even make the mark. Look at our relations with politicians and others in power and you will see that we are less than cozy with them. Not much clout in the cocktail circuit. But we have the idea that if you are interested enough in EFi to be reading this, you just might be among those who can no longer settle for the kind of compromises the big, "influential" conservation groups settle for. Perhaps you are thinking that we need more radical actions than the other groups (with a few exceptions) pull off. Maybe you have been looking around, wishing there was a less elitist group of concerned and involved environmentalists who aren't afraid to stand up to the onslaught of the corporate/military/techno/industrial monstrosity. You might even be among those who would like to toss a healthy dose of verve and

good humor into the stale rhetoric of the environmental community. Or maybe you'd like to be able to do more for the Earth than just being instructed to write letters addressed to your favorite power-mongers. Then again, you might be saying to yourself, "Hey, we need wilderness for much more than just choice hiking and skiing spots. The Earth and Her biotic community must have vastly larger wild areas if She is to survive!"

If you are in general agreement with this line of thinking, and if you are ready to meet a diverse collection of other individuals who have similar concerns, and feel like joining forces in an effort to actively resist the destruction being wrought upon Mother Earth, then why not consider calling your self an Earth Firster?

It is a simple enough choice. You already know the score (it's grim, but not yet hopeless). We certainly don't have to elaborate on how much poison is already loose in the environment, or how little wilderness we have left, you know all that. What counts now is ACTION, right? Call yourself an Earth Firster and you're in. Where the safety of Mother Earth is concerned, there will always be room for anyone who places Earth First!

To get our newsletter eight times a year, send \$10 (or more) to Earth First!, Box 26221, Salt Lake City, UT 84126.

☐ Here's \$10 or more to sign me up for EARTH FIRST! This gets me one year's worth of the EFi Newsletter, plus announcements, all postpaid.

☐ I wish to volunteer in other ways

☐ In addition to the above, list me in the Newsletter as a regional contact so to enable the Grassroots Organization of EARTH FIRST! (others in your area will contact you).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

The body of the text above this line is the same size as 8 1/2" x 11" paper; it works just fine for copying so that you can produce blurb sheets to hand out to interested folks.

## Round River Rendezvous

This summer's 4th of July Round River Rendezvous is planned for a still undetermined location in western Wyoming, probably in the Gros Ventre Range. All Earth Firsters are invited to attend as there will be much to discuss and do.

At the RRR this year, there will be specific issues study groups, strategy planning committees, and more, including some pointed actions in defense of Mother Earth.

Speakers will include Ed Abbey, Dave Foreman, Howie Wolke and others. Music by Johnny Sagebrush and whoever else can carry a tune. A very special appearance will be made by those rockin' crazies, The Lithium Brothers.

Details on exactly where this blowout will occur will be forthcoming in the next EFi Newsletter. We will also know better by then how we will feed everyone, where we'll leave cars and how long the thing will last. Please plan to join us in Wyoming. We all need one another's help to keep our wild places from being decimated.

## Ventana Wilderness Oil & Gas Leasing Protest

Sometime this spring (probably April 24 or May 1) wilderness lovers in the Bay Area will gather in the Ventana Wilderness to protect the oil and gas leases applied for by Texaco. For details, contact Bob Reid, Project Wilderness, 2253 Park Blvd., Palo Alto, CA 94306, 321-6495.

In each issue of the EFi Newsletter, we will run an up-to-date list of our regional contact people. This list serves as one of the most important aspects of this newsletter. Because of the radical nature of Earth First!, we feel that it should be the option of the individual to choose the level she or he wishes to act out upon. Our membership lists are not given out and no name is made public without permission. Aliases are freely encouraged. If you're an Interior Department employee, for instance, and you have a few things you'd like to have us relate to our readership, just let us know. We won't blow your cover.

Those of you who would be interested in "surfacing" so that other Earth Firsters in your area can have a way to get to know one another, say so. If you're from the CIA or FBI and are thinking of doing some grassroots organizing, this is your big chance. But take note: Earth Firsters are generally quite perceptive about natural and unnatural phenomena; if you're a squeak who has no great passion for Mother Earth, you won't get much beyond the first meeting. Perhaps we are dreamers. Fools we are not.

Our tactics are basically those of guerilla theatre, civil disobedience, non-violent-mass-action, and humor. If you're looking for terrorists, you're in the wrong place.

Operate any way you like. Your group doesn't even have to call itself by the Earth First! name. After all, you are the grassroots. It's up to you and those you know to be involved with the issues in your area. This "organization" known as Earth First! can help when the heat becomes critical, but first you must help yourselves by signing up as a regional contact.

Tony Moore, our Earth First! Contact for all Contacts, has an energetic crew of 30 folks who get together every week in Missouri. Tony is working furiously on compiling an "Earth First! Guide to Grassroots Organizing," which will be out by next newsletter.

## Courtesy Calendar

Coyote Cooperative News and Views of the Southwest Desert, 1145 E. Sixth St., Tucson, AZ 85719

The Unicorn Published monthly by the Animal Rights Network, 5 Pershing Blvd., Shillington, PA 19607

NC-CARD an anti-draft newsletter, 15 Rutherford Pl., New York, NY 10003

Stop Project ELF is fighting the placement of a massive Extremely Low Frequency antenna which would be used to communicate with nuclear subs under the Great Lakes. Contact: 144 E. Washington St., Madison, WI 53703 (608) 256-0870

American Citizens Together (ACT) is dedicated to stopping the military from dumping its nuke waste ANYWHERE! "It's not safe, it's not democratic. We don't want one built in our or anybody's backyard." Contact ACT at Box 3046, Taos, NM 87571 (505) 758-1347

## List of Local Contacts

When you decide that your part of the woods (or what's left of them) could use some extra protection, and you have scrawled your name and essentials down to send to us, you might also consider announcing the date and place for an initial meeting. This newsletter will always have room to freely advertise the activities of our local grassroots groups, sub-groups, or what have you. Just let us know what's up AT LEAST TWO WEEKS before every publication date.

### COORDINATING CONTACT:

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### EAST:

CT - R. Neil Harvey, 235 So. Park St., Wilimantic, CT 06226 203-423-2926

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NJ - Bob Ludd, 246 Fawn Ridge, Mountainside, NJ 07092 (201) 233-7656 (N) 624-7446 (D)

NY - Ralph Meima, 251 Liberty St., Troy, NY 12180 (518) 272-2496

VA - Paul Bratton, Judy Price, POB 111A, Deerfield, VA 24432

NY - Joe Onion, 189 Union St., Rochester, NY 14605 (716) 325-6161

OH - Rik Thuesen, Antioch, Yellow Springs, OH 45387 OR: 8483 Whitewood, Brecksville, OH 44141

MD - Leonard J. Kerpelman, 2403 W. Rogers, Balto., MD 21209 (301) 367-8855

WEST: OR - Eileen Key, 4815 N.E. Flanders, Portland, OR 97213 (503) 236-7308

CA - Philip Friedman, 2300 Ortega St., San Francisco, CA 94122

Slickrock Country Council to help save what is left of the canyons of the Colorado Plateau. Send to: Box 115, Moab, UT 84532

Nuclear Weapons Campaign National Clearinghouse 4144 Lindell Blvd., 2nd Floor, St. Louis, MO 63108

June 7-July 9 U.N. Special Session on Disarmament

Disarmament Times 777 U.N. Plaza, Rm. 7B, New York, NY 10017

Support the World Peace Tax Fund Bill. . . Conscientious military tax objectors need a way to pay their share of taxes without having to violate their conscience or the IRS code. Conscience and Military Tax Campaign, 44 Bellhaven Rd., Bellport NY 11713

The Planet/Drum Foundation is a "growing number of individuals and groups that are exploring cultural, environmental and economic forms appropriate to the places they live in. Contact: POB 31251, San Francisco, CA 94131 (415) 285-6556

CA - Rolla E. Lewis, POB 30, Brentwood, CA 94513

Michael Bordenane, Sierra Assoc. for Environment, 3771 Circle Dr. W., Fresno, CA 93704 (209) 229-0272

Doug Hansen, 4234 Mt. Henry Ave., San Diego, CA 92117

Jean C. Gordon, 1214 B Mill St., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Tim Jeffries, 22 Claus Cir., Fairfax, CA (415) 456-7433

WA - Dan R. Brauner, E 304 Indiana, Spokane, WA 99207

Randy Weeks, 1221 Bing St., Olympia, WA 98502

WY - Howie Wolke, POB 2348, Jackson, WY 83001

NM - Neil Cobb, 421 1/2 Harvard SE, Albuquerque, NM 87106

Tom Callanan, 815 Dunlap St., Santa Fe, NM 87501 (505) 988-1382

NB - Jack Ellis, 3920 Dewey, Omaha, NB 68105

CO - Art Goodtimes, POB 1008, Telluride, CO 84435

CO - Richard Ling, 1056 11th St., Boulder, CO 80302

Steve Rauworth, 8593 Hwy 172, Ignacio, CO 81137 (303) 884-9864

UT - Pete Dustrud, c/o EFi Newsletter, POB 26221, SLG, UT 84126 (801) 359-5250

Jim Stiles, POB 221 Moab, UT 84532

Ken Wintch, 1101 Elm Ave., Provo, UT 84601 (801) 377-2367

KS - Neil Schanker, 1221 Thurston, Manhattan, KS 66502 (913) 532-5866

April 2-4 Desert Conference IV, Burns, OR. For information write 369 West Fifth St., Prineville, OR 97754

June 14, Civil Disobedience Task Force Non-violent affinity groups with marching orders to "be creative" will demonstrate at the UN Missions of the five major nuclear powers (U.S., U.S.S.R., France, Great Britain and China).

The Mono Lake Committee, Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541

1982 Rainbow World Peace Gathering, Box 5577, Eugene, OR 97405

April 18-25 Ground Zero Week. A nationwide week of community based discussions and events designed to educate and involve the American people in peace. Ground Zero, 806 15th St., NW Suite 421, Washington, D.C. 20005

March 20 Earth Day 1982. Contact: Earth Society Foundation, 919 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022 (212) 574-3059





# Ludd Readers

## NED LUDD BOOKS

As mentioned in the last newsletter, EFi and Dream Garden Press are undertaking a joint publishing project: NED LUDD BOOKS. The following are more complete descriptions of the first three of the books in the Ned Ludd series:

### Don't Fence Me In: A Wilderness Campfire Anthology

Whilst lounging about beneath the waxing moon and gnawing on rib bones before the flickering mesquite along the "wild" Rio Grande in the Big Bend country, our party of EARTH FIRST! river runners wished they had the words to more songs or maybe to some Robert Service poems. What was needed, we decided, was a river runner's—no, a complete wilderness—anthology of songs, poems, and quotable passages for use by the campfire. Somebody ought to do one. Why not EARTH FIRST? We oughta even be able to make some \$\$\$ from it to fund our nefarious activities.

Thus was born *Don't Fence Me In* as a title for NED LUDD BOOKS. The theme is simple: the freedom of wilderness river or trail the loneliness in the song of the whippoorwill, the ghosts, the memories dancing in those members, the racial memory kissed by those licking flames that mesmerize your eyes and keep Smilodon from your back. The anthology will contain songs suitable for singalongs, and poems, short stories or essays, and passages from longer works that are all suitable for reading aloud. Maybe we'll even throw in a few special recipes.

### As for songs, we want the ones we always want to sing, like:

"Don't Fence Me In," "Night Rider's Lament," "Chanilly Lace," "Redneck Mother"—Western, Outlaw, Country, Fifties Rock, Gospel. For poetry, we naturally want Robert Service but also others from Gary Snyder to Shakespeare that are good for reading out loud to the sounds of poplars popping! And there are passages from Twain, Conrad, and Melville that can raise the hair even on Howie's neck when read before the coals on some dark and whispering night. I think it's Balzac who has a sad story about a man who makes love to a leopard, and Lucretius has great wisdom on affairs of the heart. Perfect for just the two of you and a full moon. Finally, there are good strips of jerky from Abbey and Traven and Matthiessen that we need to chew on in the wilderness.

Hopefully, you have the idea. Send me the songs you think should be included (words, authors, copyright info, guitar chords). If you have a favorite recipe, send it along, too. On the passages, include source, author, copyright, publisher, etc. Or if you feel like it, write something original, say, on Everett Ruess. Some myths and legends would be fine, too. Keep all of these to a length conducive to reading aloud. This can be a real fine book. Send those ideas in. And remember:

"The river's kicking like a steer . . . run out the forward sweep! That's Hell-gate Canyon right ahead! I know of old its roar. And . . . I'll be damned! the ice is jammed! We've got to make the shore."

### Essays Towards Deep Ecology

Much of the reason for human-kind's assault on Earth lies within the dogmas of Western Civilization. These include such things as the idea of material progress, the worship of rationality, the fascination with technological tinkering, father figure hierarchies, the concept of a division between people and nature, etc. Western Civilization is supremely anthropocentric—all revolves around *Homo sapiens*. It is this anthropocentric worldview that allows—no, demands—that human beings trash our planet. Fortunately, even though Western Civilization is the one world culture today, there has been a thoughtful alternative view of the past and there is today. This competing paradigm is biocentric—believing that *Homo sapiens* is but one of several million life forms on Earth and has no manifest destiny to occupy the entire globe for its exclusive use. Bill Devall and others call it Deep Ecology. This biocentric paradigm is the philosophical basis for EARTH FIRST!, for our radical positions and for our militant actions.

This idea of Deep Ecology is widespread and diverse but it has never really been collected in one place. That is the purpose of *Essays Towards Deep Ecology*. The pieces contained in this book will run a wide gamut but will point the way to a new biocentric worldview that will challenge the "facts" and gospel of progress, rationality, technology, industrialization, the empire state, and anthropocentrism.

Prof. Bill Devall, Dept. Sociology, Humboldt State University, Arcata, California 95521, will be the editor for *Essays Towards Deep Ecology*. Please send any ideas for papers to include in this anthology to him.

### Ecodefense: A Handbook on the Militant Defense of the Earth

Of all the NED LUDD BOOKS, this one is the most requested and destined to be the most controversial. It raises important legal, ethical, and tactical questions. It may also be the most worthwhile thing EFi ever does. For some of the material in this book, we must have expert technical advice. Essentially, the concept of *Ecodefense* is that it is a cookbook of tactics and tools beyond the traditional avenues of environmental advocacy. There are many other books containing much of this information (*Anarchist's Cookbook*, *Poor Man's James Bond*, *Get Even*, *The Paper Trip*, *The Revenge Book*, *Techniques of Harassment*, and others from rightwing paramilitary survivalist outfits like Paladin Press), but none from a specific environmental viewpoint.

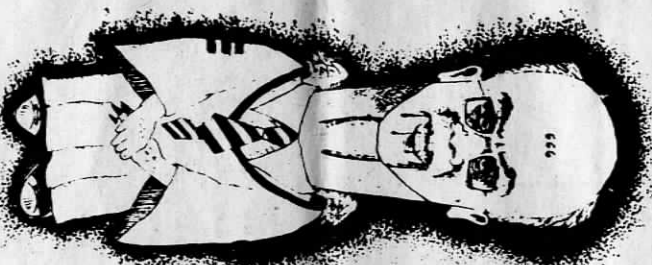
As I see it, *Ecodefense* should contain the following types of information:

- TECHNICAL—making of explosives, wrecking a bulldozer, spiking trees, destroying an oil rig, blowing up a dam, etc.
- HARASSMENT—screwing the villains personally (making someone's wife think he's cheating on her, ruin his credit rating).
- SOCIAL—How to go underground, create a new identity.
- LEGAL—Guidelines on how to minimize legal charges (misdeemeanor instead of felony), state-by-state comparison of possible legal hassles, what to do if arrested, etc.

• TRUE LIFE (OR FANTASY) STORIES—The trashing of the herbicide helicopter in Oregon, the Bolt Weevils of Minnesota, etc. This can include the Ecotricks contest in the EFi Newsletter.

Generally, the information in *Ecodefense* will be presented in narrative (story) form, including the events leading up to frustration with the accepted legal approach of influencing the system. Please send in your stories or technical advice (anonymity is guaranteed). If you have special talents and would like to be a special consultant to this book, let me know also. Obviously neither EARTH FIRST! nor the editors of this book advocate anything in it. It is for the vicarious pleasure of the armchair adventurer only and we take no responsibility if some nut actually tries anything in the book. I (Dave Foreman) will be the general editor for the Ned Ludd series. I will also be the surface contact for *Ecodefense* (the other editors are underground). Send any suggestions on any of these titles directly to me (1802 Sun Ct., Rio Rancho, NM 87124) or to me c/o the newsletter. Send ideas on *Deep Ecology* to Bill Devall. Additional ideas for other books in the series can be sent to me.

—Dave Foreman



JIM STILES

## EARTH Goods FIRST!

Earth First! Goods and Merchandise will soon be back in business, ready to do battle with the corporate giants. Our warehouses were cleaned out last fall during the Earth First! Roadshow, and due to lack of operating capital and general disorganization, we have been slow to get back in the marketplace with our line of T-shirts, bumperstickers, Lil Green Songbooks, and whatnot.

But that's all changing now. Annie's taking T-shirt production, J. Sagebrush is working on his songbook, and we're printing new bumperstickers.

Because of the enormous cost-per-slogan, we are reducing (for now) the sticker list to these slogans: "Rednecks for Wilderness," "Drill Watt, Not Wilf-derness," "Earth First!," "Rudolf the Red Lives," "Hayduke Saves."

Stickers will be ready in one week. Price: \$1 plus 25¢ postage each (varnished paper, not vinyl).

An artist here is working on a T-shirt design, and she should now have it ready for the printer. Back orders will be sent as soon as they're ready. Please advise: we can refund if you'd rather not wait.

# Maps!

## USGS TOPO MAPS

only \$1.75

EARTH FIRST! is now dealer for US Geological Survey Topo Maps. As you may know, the price for topographic maps direct from the US Geological Society has gone up to \$2 apiece. Most dealers charge \$3 or more. EARTH FIRST! has just become a dealer for USGS Maps and is only charging subscribers to the EFi Newsletter \$1.75 for 7½ and 15 minute quad topo maps. Not only can you save considerable money by ordering you maps through EFi! but you can help fund EFi! (as a dealer we only pay \$1 per map). In quantity this works out to significant amounts: if you buy 50 maps in a year, you save \$12.50 over what you would pay USGS or \$62.50 over what you would pay another dealer! And, if EFi! sells 5,000 maps in a year (a reasonable number considering the number of topo map users who read the newsletter) we make \$3,750—enough to pay Peter Dustrud to edit the newsletter. So, BUY TOPO MAPS FROM EARTH FIRST! End of hard sale. Now for the details:

1. Get an index map(s) and order form(s) for the state(s) in which you are interested (all free) from USGS, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225 (west of the Mississippi River) or USGS, 1200 South Eads St., Arlington, VA 22202 (east of the Mississippi).
2. Fill out the order form for each state. Count your total maps ordered and multiply by \$1.75. Send the order form and a check made out to EARTH FIRST! to: EARTH FIRST! c/o Art Goodtimes Box 1008 Telluride, CO 81435

Maps will be mailed directly by USGS to you. Total time from your mailing to your receiving the maps should be two weeks.

### SAVE MONEY!! HELP EARTH FIRST!! SAVE MONEY!! HELP EARTH FIRST!!

EARTH FIRST! is also a dealer in the raised relief (3D) maps. They retail for \$13.95 each and may be ordered one or more at a time and will be drop shipped to you from the company. No postage or handling charges. They're available more or less in the same quadrants the USGS maps are (it takes 14 maps, for example, to complete Utah—thrown in) but if you need help in ordering, write Art, for a brochure.

Real, actual classified. For Sale — 10 acres in SE Utah near the Blue Mtns. Spectacular views, \$8,200. Owner will finance. Contact: Jim Stiles POB 221, Moab, UT 84632

Orbiting Out Their Beyond the Stars? Join a new non-denominational study group: Past Lives/Current Wrecks. . . or how to live thru the 80's now that you've survived the nonenvironmental seventies. . .

### ADS

Lonely post atomic survivor of WWII wants to find true third flipper love. Send glow in the dark photo to POB 235, Canyonlands Nuclear Dump, New Plutonium City, Utah

### Descent into the Maze

All proceeds go to EARTH FIRST!

May 1st thru 8th \$300.00 per person

Rendezvous at Ray's Tavern Green River, Utah on April 30th for the best cheeseburgers and pork chops around (not to mention beer).

Two spots are still open on the EARTH FIRST! Spring gonzo fundraiser hike into the Maze (Canyonlands National Park) with Digger Dave Foreman and his faithful mudman guide, Spurs Jackson.

It will be an eight day trip with a maximum of eight people, so send in those cards and letters now if you want to go.

We're tentatively planning on splitting the trip into two four-day segments with the vehicles in between so we can split up the food, and more importantly, restock the BEER! All of this is of course subject to our whims once we get there, or as the Yardbirds used to say . . . "Over, Under, Sideways, Down. . . Backwards, Forwards, square and round. . . where will it end?"

For you folks that have signed up, once you figure out your transportation arrangements, please let me know. I can take several down to Ray's from SLC on the morning of April 30th and Foreman could take several up from Albuquerque, either on the 29th or 30th. . . EVERETT SPURS REUSS JACKSON

### Silent Agitators

Many of us in EFi feel that the Wobblies (IWW—Industrial Workers of the World) were the finest bunch of radicals ever to bless America with their presence. We particularly like their practice of using "Silent Agitators" to let folks know they were about and working. The Silent Agitators of the Wobblies were merely red stickers that were put up in shops or factories. This let the other workers know a Wobbler was present.

EARTH FIRST! plans to adapt the Silent Agitator tactic to our own purposes and we will soon have available little green stickers with the EFi clenched fist, a suitably radical quote (suggestions are welcomed), and an EFi address. Order 'em by the dozen or hundred and stick 'em up wherever you'd like (Forest Service offices, bathroom walls, disabled bulldozers, the Glen Canyon Dam visitors center. . .). You get the picture? With the Silent Agitator you can give it to the rest of the world. Details will be forthcoming in the May Day Newsletter.

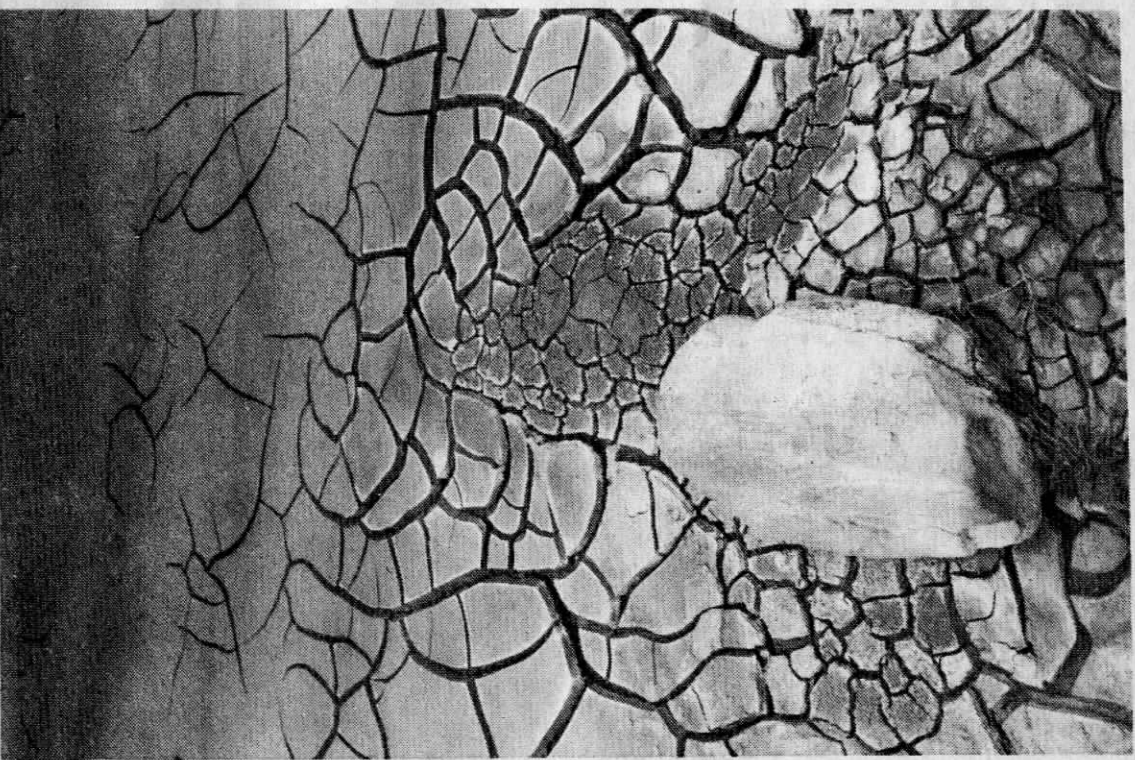
Burp First! the new environmental group that doesn't excuse itself. NO MORE belching oneself into complacency. . . Don't join EFi! and pat yourself on the back. . . Create chaos out of anarchy for a better tomorrow.

### Special Offers

New makeshift recipe book tells all. . .

Tired of being ripped off by mail order ads that promise how to make you two, (36) rich beyond your wildest suburban dreams by telling other people to run the same ad you sent \$2.35 off for in the first place? You two, can overcome this disability by sending away for this book. This book has never been published before (except in the Necromican), nor even written before you send in yer 23.5





P. DUSTRUD

BOX 26221,  
Salt Lake City, UT 84126  
TO:

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH  
PERMIT NO. 4352

## Coors Boycott!

### SAVE OUR ENVIRONMENT

Do you cherish a high quality American environment? Would you like to see us maintain pure air and water and National Parks and Wilderness Areas as a priceless heritage for future generations? Then join with us in this nationwide **BOYCOTT OF COORS BEER.**

Joe Coors urged Reagan to appoint James Watt as Secretary of the Interior. Anne Gorsuch as Director of the Environmental Protection Agency and Bob Burford as Director of the Bureau of Land Management. All three, and more of their own appointees, are bent on destroying any environmental gains made in the past few decades. The quality of the American Environment has already suffered at the hands of

these people and will continue to suffer until they are replaced with intelligent and sensitive administrators.

To add insult to environmental injury, Coors money funds the Mountain States Legal Foundation, an extreme right-wing front organization for oil and mining industries. The sole purpose of MSLF is to thwart—in courts and by lobbying—important environmental and wilderness legislation.

**YOU CAN HELP!** Copy the pledge below on a postcard and send it to Coors.

ALSO, ask 10 of your friends to send similar postcards and to ask ten of *their* friends to do so!

Join with the millions of us nationwide who care about the American Environment. **BOYCOTT COORS.**

Clip and mail to: ADOLPH COORS CO., Golden, CO 80401

I hereby pledge to boycott Coors beer until such a time that Interior Secretary James Watt, EPA Director Anne Gorsuch and BLM Director Bob Burford are replaced by intelligent administrators who are sensitive to the American Environment and until Coors stops funding the extremist, anti-environmental Mountain States Legal Foundation.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

P.S. Your beer isn't very good, either.

## Road to Moab

A big blond-haired, all-American-looking guy stopped his government van, got out and said to me, "Where are you heading?"

I told him, "Moab."

"Well, hop in and take a ride at government expense."

I debated this for a second. Having just awakened on the outskirts of Green River, Utah, I had thought to get over to the Motel 6 and get my fix of mud. Maybe read a paper.

"OK, great," I said and threw my pack in the back of the van.

We sped off for Moab. Inside the government van there were rolled-up maps and several black cases.

"Name's Pete," I said. He introduced himself as Fred.

"Doing some surveying?" I asked.

"Sort of like that," Fred said. "We're looking for launch sites for the Pershing II Missile system. Test launches."

"Oh," I said, thinking that here was perhaps an opportunity for a little enlightenment on what that disastrous plan was in store next for the red rock country I had grown to love so much.

"Yeah," Fred said. "We've been all over this country for the last several weeks looking for some good spots."

"What's a Pershing II Missile?" I wanted to know.

"It's the latest thing," Fred explained. "It's launched to an elevation of 100 miles, then it points its nosecone straight down and fires itself, hitting its target within 20 feet of its intended mark."

"Sounds deadly," I tried to feed Fred with the kind of platitudes that would keep the conversation on a civil level while I was in his government truck.

"It is," Fred said. "This Pershing II has a nosecone that's capable of penetrating through 500 feet of granite. Think of what that would do in sandstone."

"Then it sets off a nuclear war—head which can cause earthquakes."

"So how do you like the countryside out here?" I wanted to ask him how he'd like me to launch a rocket through his house.

"Oh, it's spectacular. I can't believe some of the places we've been. I'm glad I brought my camera."

"Uh huh. So, where's this Pershing II going to be launched from?"

"Here, look at this map," Fred fished out a topo and showed me a marked spot which was just north of Hanksville, east of the San Rafael Swell, called Simbad's Country. The trajectory led from this spot towards Alamogordo Test Range in New Mexico.

A twenty-mile corridor under the path will have to be evacuated during the launches," Fred said.

He also told me the first launch would occur in October, '82, and that there would be missiles launched from Idaho as well.

"See, this and the other sites in this area will be our 500-mile-test. From Idaho, they will be going for 1,500 miles," added Fred. "Sixty launches in all, more or less."

I was trying to imagine what one of these Pershings would do to the Glen Canyon Dam if it just happened to come down prematurely. It would be going over it, or at least near it.

We had now turned off the east-west I-70 onto the final ascent into Moab. Fred clipped along at about 70. A cop passed us going the other way, making "slow-down" signals to us.

I tried to ease out of the conversation now. I was excited about returning to this strange little town, Moab, and especially to the magical terrain around it.

I noticed the Colorado River was flowing briskly, but not as full as I have seen it before. Ah, what a great day to be back in the slickrock. At the north side of Moab I asked to be let out.

I peered up at the restaurant on the cliff, the one that Charlie Steen, the "Uranium King," built as his home after he struck it rich in the early fifties. I thought to myself: Now the corporations want to give the canyons of southern Utah not only pads for testing macabre war toys, but everything from a gigantic nuke dump, a 9-reactor nuke cluster (Green River needs the power), oil shale, tar sands, more and more dams on every last river accessible by bulldozer, even Rocky Flats if they can convince the politicians it's for their "defense." And I thought, NO! This MUST stop!

A week later, I met up the the most interesting crowd of characters I can recall, and that's another story altogether. It's called Earth First!

PD.